

Medical marijuana under attack
Feds raid Los Angeles pot club,
Bay Area clubs on heightened alert.
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'End the Witch Hunts'
More than 600 attend
SLDN's D.C. event.
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Divine inspiration
Frances Milstead remembers
'My Son Divine' in a new book.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 44 • 1 November 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Tonight, march for gay victims of attacks and other saints

by Katie Szymanski

LGBT citizens are already aware that the mainstream media has done its best to exclude information about the gay and lesbian victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Loved ones and the gay press have filled in some of the gaps, but certainly out of the thousands that perished, many more than we know were members of our community.

Tonight (Thursday, November 1), the LGBT victims of September 11 will be honored with a candlelight procession through the Castro from 9 to 10 p.m. The march, organized by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, purposefully coincides with All Saints Day, and will gather together people from around the world to tell the missing stories.

"As we hear their stories, we learn of acts of heroism and courage, love, and service that touch and inspire us all," said a statement from the Sisters. "But we have not heard all the stories — some are at risk of being buried in the rubble and lost to history. Those stories, of the gay men and lesbian women lost on September 11 must be

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Halloween tricks?

Folks in the Castro last Saturday, October 27, got an early start celebrating Halloween during an impromptu street party that saw celebrants walking the street in costumes, like these two, each of whom dressed up like '70s-era Elton John.



Darlene / Photographics

Health officials turn to computers to promote safer sex

Increase in syphilis rates prompts action

by Matthew S. Bajko

The battle line against the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is increasingly being drawn in cyberspace. As more evidence emerges showing that men who meet sexual partners on the Internet are helping to spread syphilis and other diseases, health officials and AIDS service organizations are turning their attention to a computer screen.

Over the last year, online based education and prevention efforts have been launched in numerous cities, including San Francisco, Dallas, Chicago, and Boston. Internet service providers such as Planet Out Partners (which merged with Gay.com) have also assisted in these efforts.

"We have been proactively working with nonprofit organizations to make sure we have safe sex information in our chat rooms," said Planet Out Partners spokesman Bryce Eberhart.

Now America Online is being targeted by



Dr. Jeffrey Klausner

public health officials for failing to post warnings in its chat rooms where men go to meet men. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had scheduled to host a national meeting on the topic in October but had to postpone it until the winter due to the anthrax crisis.

"We were getting reports from other cities that were having outbreaks of STDs or syphilis related to people meeting in chat rooms," said Dr.

Jeffrey Klausner, director of sexually transmitted disease prevention and control services for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "I started to realize this was a larger issue than San Francisco, but my main focus has been to inform San Franciscans about the risk of meeting partners in chat rooms."

Last week, DPH officials reported they are seeing a "startling" rise in syphilis cases in men who have sex with men, from a low of

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Second-parent adoptions dealt a setback

by Joe Dignan and Cynthia Laird

As waves of fear rolled through the California gay and lesbian community, attorneys, family rights activists, counselors, and parents scrambled to understand the implications of last Thursday's decision by a San Diego appellate court which could invalidate second-parent adoptions in California.

A state appellate court in San Diego ruled 2-1 that California law does not authorize second-parent adoptions.

The case, *Sharon S. v. Superior Court*, involves a prominent Southern California lesbian couple, Annette Friskopp and Sharon Silverstein.

While there are three types of adoption in California, the first two — agency and individual adoptions — provide for situations where the birth parents wish to surrender all rights to a child. The last, the second-parent adoption, allows the husband or wife of a birth parent to adopt the children of a spouse without requiring the birth parent to give up his or her rights.

This last method of adoption has been used for 15 years by same-sex couples in California to adopt the children of one of the partners. Though it is recognized by the state Department of Social Services and validated by individual court orders in every case, the appellate court found this procedure invalid because state statute requires the partners to be married.

"In the normal heterosexual world, this procedure is most used when a father has disappeared from the scene and the mother has remarried," said John Dodd, an attorney for Silverstein, the petitioner and birth-mother in the case.

Gay and lesbian rights advocacy groups
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B.A.R. election endorsements



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SF Propositions

- A SF Community College District Bonds: **YES**
- B Solar Energy Revenue Bond: **YES**
- C Elective Office Vacancies: **NO**
- D Voter Approval for Bay Fill: **NO**
- E Elections, Ethics, Outside Counsel: **YES**
- F Municipal Water and Power Supply: **NO**
- G Redistricting: **NO**
- H Board Authorization of Solar Power and Energy Conservation Revenue Bonds: **NO**
- I Proposed San Francisco-Brisbane Municipal Utility District: **NO**

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TG woman takes on SFPD one more time

by Katie Szymanski

Three years ago Cristiana Rivas, then 38, applied to be a San Francisco police officer. The former member of the National Guard passed written, oral, physical, and polygraph tests as well as an extensive background check, and then was denied entry based upon a sealed psychological exam. She didn't believe for a second that the denial had nothing to do with her being a transsexual woman.

Rivas paid for an independent psychological exam, which reportedly declared her fit to serve, and then went through a grievance procedure whereby a city-appointed mediator allegedly asked questions like, "Why not go into cosmetics?" When all of her city remedies were exhausted, Rivas said, she filed a complaint in state court alleging transgender discrimination. However, there are no state protections against transgender discrimination, and her case was dismissed.

Not one to let the system get the best of her, Rivas recently went through the entire application process again, and was, not surprisingly, denied once again.

This time, however, the reasons for her rejection were two-fold: one letter, dated October 23, cites the results of the most recent psychological exam. Another letter, with the same date, claims that Rivas was disqualified "due to the findings of the background investigation ... and based upon a review of your personal history."

One such finding may have been the 1998 failure of the psychological exam; according to department policy, candidates who have failed a psychological evaluation in the past may automatically be disqualified.

But other factors that did not seem to influence the last rejection are now being given as reasons for disqualification, according to Rivas. These factors seem to include past substance use (cocaine in the early 1980s); past physical altercations (a fight on a basketball court that Rivas says was self-defense); and ironically, her recent unemployment.

Although Rivas has decided not to protest the psychological findings (an independent evaluation can run more than \$1,000), she did file a written appeal of the background decision with the Civil Service Commission on October 29. In each of her arguments, she asks the question, "Are there any other cadets who are accepted to the force..." who have



Jane Philomeni/Cleland

Cristiana Rivas wants to be a San Francisco police officer, but has been denied by the department.

similar incidents in their past? Rivas and many of her supporters are betting that her history is no worse than many police officers who make the cut. Sergeant Dennis Callaghan with the background investigation division did

not return phone calls to the Bay Area Reporter.

Rivas has requested a public hearing for her appeal. A decision is expected within the next couple of weeks. She is also looking for an attorney. ▼

Sisters announce social justice scholarship winners

by Katie Szymanski

Ten college scholarships totaling \$5,000 have just been bestowed upon students across the country who have vowed to use their education to make a difference in this world. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have announced the winners of this year's social justice scholarships, a program financed by the Sisters' popular monthly bingo games and created to help future leaders obtain the education they need to address the issues facing our communities.

"The recipients of this year's scholarships reflect the diversity of our community and the breadth of the challenges facing us as we work to create a more just society," said Sister Betty Does. "They also represent the light and the hope we have that such challenges can be addressed and that solutions will be found with time."

Local winners include Kyle Celio of the University of San Francisco whose education will focus on advocacy for poor residents of Chinatown; Christopher Brian Logan of the New College of California, who is studying to provide marriage and family counseling to people with HIV; Angelito Angeles, also of New College, who

is a longtime LGBT activist planning to be a teacher; David Grant and Carolyn Talmadge, of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, both of whom plan to use faith-based community building to create economic justice; Rose Marie Jones of Berkeley's University of Phoenix, a working mother who is studying to bring her life experience into the classroom as a teacher; and Clemency Wings of Sonoma State University in Sebastopol, who is focused on teaching English to migrant communities.

Other winners are Ben Singer of Rutgers University in New Jersey who is working to address healthcare access for transgenders; Matt Wolf of New York University, a documentarian highlighting economic and social justice issues; and Jackie Phillip Saxon of Northern Arizona University who is studying to be a teacher for economically impoverished districts.

Additional information about the Sisters' scholarship fund is available at www.thesisters.org. "Ba-Da-Bingo" operates the first Thursday of the month (including tonight, November 1) at 150 Eureka Street. Bingo games start at 7 p.m., and admission is \$12, which includes entertainment, 10 games of bingo with cash prizes up to \$250 per game, and other perks. ▼

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Gay men have ties to the Wiccan faith

by Matthew S. Bajko

While women have predominantly practiced Wicca throughout the ages, gay men are increasingly taking up witchcraft as a source of spirituality in their lives. Covens and courses abound in the Bay Area for those men who feel shunned by other organized religions and are looking for an alternative faith.

"The Bay Area is the most Wiccan intense area in the country," said James Lovette-Black, a reverend in a coven he formed with 13 gay men. "It is wonderful to be a witch in the Bay Area."

And it is becoming more commonplace to see Wiccan rituals incorporated into gay events. At a recent local gay men's health conference, San Francisco resident Francis Sal Meri, who took up the craft five years ago, facilitated a Wiccan ritual to cleanse internalized homophobia.

"In general, it is important that gay people see this as a wonderful way to explore who they are and their relationship with the goddess without that overlay of oppression that is apparent in other religions," said Meri. "I think as gay men what we bring to Wicca is the experience of god as a male deity loving himself. And as gay and bisexual men, we can also experience what it is like to be a goddess with another man or to be a god with another man."

For centuries, Wicca has embraced queers. Many of its practices resonate especially with gay men. Wiccan marriages are called



James Lovette-Black lights candles, as part of a Wiccan tradition. He said the Wiccan faith has long been accepting of queers.

fastings, where individual's hands are fastened together. The bond is not restricted to one between a man and woman.

Rituals honoring the dead are also important aspects of Wicca. As AIDS devastated the gay community and death became an everyday event, Wicca offered a way for some men to cope.

"At the height of the AIDS epidemic, where I was knowing three or four people dying per week, I would hold a ritual for the dead on a monthly basis at every dark moon," said Sean McShee, a solitary practitioner of the craft. "That lasted for three or four years. Then I noticed I wasn't doing it as often. It marked a different point in my life."

All Hallow's Eve

Halloween itself is a commer-

cialized, Westernized version of a Wiccan ritual. Last night at midnight marked the start of a new year in the Wiccan calendar. Called by some the witching hour, it is a time of year when the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead is thinned.

"We believe the dead can visit us and we dance with them. We dance in a circle holding hands," explained Lovette-Black, whose coven joins with other Wiccans at a secret spot in the Marin Headlands for the ritual. "It's outside and right on the Pacific coast. It is a place of great Earth power."

The image of a witch with warts and deformed nose is a Christian concept created to strip witches of their credibility, said Lovette-Black.

next page ►

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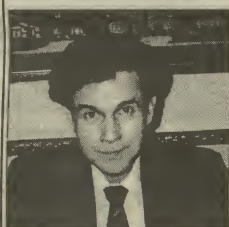
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Local legend moves on

Writer and artist Kris Kovick dies at 50

by Katie Szymanski



The late Kris Kovick

Before dyke writing was done in communities and gender-bending was acceptable, there were a few people who led by example, eventually creating a queer family structure to empower fellow artists and propel marginalized communities into greatness. Kris Kovick, lesbian cartoonist and writer, multi-gendered mother/father figure, and a key influence on queer art and spoken word, was one such person. She died in her San Francisco home last Friday, October 26. She was 50 years old and had been fighting a recurrence of cancer that was diagnosed as terminal last year.

Kovick was known nationally for her many contributions to literature and art, from her illustrations for LGBT books and periodicals to her pieces in queer anthologies like *Dyke Baggage* and *Weenie Toons*; to her mastery of the printing trade to her own humor novellas and a larger collection of essays and cartoons entitled, *What I Love About Lesbian Politics is Arguing With People I Agree With*.

Closer to home and perhaps more importantly, Kovick both energized and transformed San Francisco's lesbian art scene, producing spoken word shows at Red Dora's

Bearded Lady Cafe and at the Jon Sims Center for Performing Arts, touring with the dyke troupe Sister Spit, and founding the Web-based performance archive "San Francisco in Exile" last year to produce and preserve work at a time when many nonprofits and artists were facing eviction.

"She was a spoken word guy in the queer community since the 1980s," remembered Lynne

Breedlove, local writer and lead singer of the infamous dyke punk band Tribe 8. "In the early 1990s she encouraged a lot of us to write, and in fact one reason my novel is about to be published is because she would call and say, 'hey don't you think you need to come out and do spoken word,' and then I would write another chapter."

"The gift that she has given us is that now we have all learned that type of support for each other and continue to do that for one another, recognizing that one person can't do it all."

Local artists called her "Uncle Kris" and came to her house in Bernal Heights for guidance, usually leaving with a sandwich and words of encouragement, according to Kovick's roommate Karen Browne.

Breedlove, for one, wrote the Tribe 8 song "Ta Ta, Ta-Ta's," after Kovick's first diagnosis of breast cancer several years ago.

"She just had all these hilarious one-liners about her missing breast," said Breedlove. "I took them, and took words from her journal, and pieced them together to make a song about breast cancer."

"Mammaries light the corners of my mind, misty water-colored mammaries of the way they were,"

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visit us at www.somersetauctions.comRenovation begins
at prime Castro locale

by Matthew S. Bajko

Although construction workers have begun a five-month long renovation project at 400 Castro Street, the former Bank of America building, the Lurie Company has yet to lease the space. The prime location, sitting at the intersection of Castro and Market streets, adjacent to the Castro Muni station, has sat vacant for months.

With the opening of Pottery Barn in September, the building is the last remaining vacancy at that intersection. While several inquiries have been made into leasing the building, there is no deal pending.

"We have had some 'bites' but nothing concrete yet. Soon we hope," wrote Lurie Company executive vice president Gene Valla in an e-mail to Supervisor Mark Leno.

The Lurie Company has hired contractors Bevilacqua & Sons to do the interior demolition and seismic reinforcement work.

Crews put up barricades outside of the building two weeks ago.

"Whereas we do not have to do the seismic work for five years, we and our consultants felt it prudent to do the work now," said Valla.

The building has been without any tenants since April when the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus was forced to vacate the premises to make way for the renovations. Noah's Bagels had subleased part of the building from Bank of America but closed that location. Bank of America still operates two ATMs at the building.

Whether or not a community organization will once again be housed in the space will be determined by the new tenant. As stipulated in a 1994 Board of Supervisors conditional use clause placed on the property, if a fast food restaurant leases the property, then two-thirds of the building must go rent-free to a nonprofit entity.

No matter whom they lease the space to, the Lurie Company hopes to avoid the controversy sparked by the Pottery Barn's moving into the neighborhood.

Activists tried to prevent that company from opening in the Castro, and eventually succeeded in having the project scaled back.

Lurie Company officials are working with Leno's office in reviewing candidates for the space. They have promised to discuss potential tenants with Leno.

"They are, I believe, interested in being sensitive to the community and to the community's needs. They are not looking for a fight or a battle themselves," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I think once they do have an interested party or two, they will inform my office and get my counsel as to whether I think this tenant will fly."

Depending on the proposed tenant, Leno said he would contact the Castro community to see if people living in the area would welcome such a business.

"If I have any questions, I will be consulting with the neighborhood folks, neighbors, and merchants to ensure we get something agreeable and hopefully community serving as well," Leno said. ▽

Wiccan

◀ previous page

"Witches challenge authority, which is difficult for people to accept. The reason witches are shown as hags is because Christians demonized old women who were herbalists and talked to animals," said Lovette-Black. "The way to vilify them was to make them look really ugly with warts and blame them for everything that went wrong."

Witches not only object to the hag depiction, but also to the idea witches personify evil and hatred. As examples, they point to two editorial cartoons in the *Bay Area Reporter*, one that portrayed Anita Bryant as a witch, and a second that showed Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson as members of the craft.

"It is not witches who are putting down gay people; it is Christianity. Why depict a Christian as a witch? That goes a little too far," said Meri. "Showing witches as these sort of highly judgmental, arrogant, superior creatures is really insulting."

Spells and sex

While some gay men view the

dance floor as their church and music as their prayers, Wiccans see their spells as equivalent to prayers and their rituals as similar to church services.

How witches practice their craft is as diverse as the gay community itself. Traditions abound, including Celtic, pagan, Dianic, and Radical Faeries. Individuals can shape how they practice their rituals and spells and are free to worship as they like.

Meri practices third road, a tradition of how to work magic and how to create a relationship with the god and how to be of service. Taught by Francesca De Grandis, he said its main covenants are to have great sex and to be observant.

"The purpose of my witchcraft is to deepen my knowledge of myself and of the god and the goddess. It could be having sex with someone, not in a ritualistic way where I call the corners, light candles, and incense and all of that," he said. "It is just sort of the space I am in. So with sex, I can explore different aspects of who I am. At a deep core, who I am is another face of god."

For McShee, who refers to himself as either a Wicca priest or a neopagan, he turned to the craft

to help him deal with addictive behaviors and to deal with complex feelings and emotions.

"Spirituality is like sexuality: it is a non-rational phenomenon. So once you start putting rational judgments to either one of those, you miss the point. People do what they do in either case because of their inner drives," he said.

The great law of Lovette-Black's coven is "An' it harm none, do what ye will." He sees witchcraft as a healing process.

"We don't believe in black magic," he said. "When people ask me if I am a good witch or a bad witch, I say yes. Just to break down that type of thinking." ▽

For more information about Wicca and witchcraft, visit the following Web sites: *Witches' Voice*, an online educational network about witchcraft can be found at www.witchvox.com.

For more information about third road, Francesca De Grandis's Web site is www.well.com/user/tthirdrd/. Also, classes on Wicca can be found at www.reclaiming.org.

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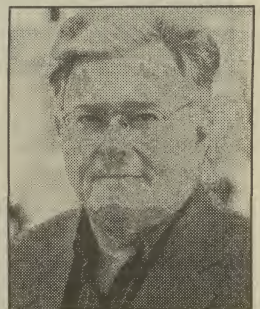
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Harvey Milk Club Early Endorsement for March 15 Primary:

Harry Britt for Assembly, District 13

The Milk Club strongly supports progressive champion Harry Britt's campaign for the Assembly in March. As Harvey Milk's successor on the Board of Supervisors, Harry led the fight for 14 years for strong rent control, comparable worth for women, neighborhood protection, disabled access, and social justice. Britt was the first gay President of the Board of Supervisors. He established the nation's first domestic partner benefits and first funding to fight AIDS. He has continued his strong advocacy for progressive issues as a teacher at New College of California. Carole Migden and Tom Ammiano are among the many progressive leaders who believe Harry will be the most effective fighter in Sacramento for the diverse communities of San Francisco. Get involved in his grassroots campaign by calling 262-0223 or going to www.harrybrittforassembly.com.



All candidates for local office were invited to participate in our public endorsement process. No contributions were either solicited or accepted until that process was complete. Beware of slate cards purporting to represent the interests of our community that were paid for by corporate money.

Join Us for the Annual Harvey Milk Candlelight March on November 27 at 7 PM.

Every year on this date the Milk Club commemorates the assassination of Harvey Milk and the powerful, spontaneous candlelight march that drew thousands who marched from Castro Street down Market Street to City Hall in mourning for the loss to our community. Join us this November 27 as we march from Harvey Milk Plaza to Civic Center Plaza to honor the life and death of Harvey Milk.

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Time to vote

We hope everyone enjoyed their Halloween festivities last night; and, now that the costumes and decorations have been put away for another year, it's time for community members to exercise one of the major rights of being an American citizen: the right to vote. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6 and, while this is an off-year election, there are still important issues on the ballot.

The September 11 terrorist attacks and the anthrax outbreaks that started last month are still fresh in people's minds. The country is on high alert for the possibility of more attacks, and the increased security throughout the nation has left many citizens on edge. But to shirk from the responsibility of voting is to give in to the terrorists, and we as a nation should not abdicate our right—indeed our duty—to cast ballots on Tuesday.

Terrorism is about instilling fear. One of the ways the terrorists seek to disrupt life for Americans is to make people afraid to go about their normal lives. While nothing is "normal" in the wake of September 11, many Americans are returning to their routines even while being vigilant of suspicious activities and taking precautions.

A democratic society depends on the participation of its citizens to select its public officeholders. While city officials have predicted a low voter turnout, we remember it was only a year ago that we saw the presidential election go into overtime as ballots were contested and the Florida result was too close to call for more than a month, indeed, until the Supreme Court intervened.

During the protracted election last November, demonstrations were held in San Francisco and in cities across the country to demand that every vote be counted. Protesters also called for election reforms and pledged to vote in future elections. Guess what? The next election, at least for San

Franciscans, is Tuesday.

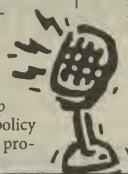
While this year's local election obviously doesn't have the national significance of a presidential race, the issues are nonetheless important to residents. From choosing a new city attorney to deciding on elective office vacancies to deciding whether to give the thumbs up to public power voters will make policy decisions that will affect the city profoundly. Other issues on the ballot involve bonds for solar energy and redistricting in San Francisco.

Another issue on the ballot is a bond measure for City College. In these uncer-

tain economic times, it would be easy for voters to oppose the bond measure, but that, too, sends the wrong message. San

Francisco's community college system is in dire need of renovation, equipment purchases, and other items. Now, more than ever, as layoffs are ongoing throughout the Bay Area, improvements are needed for facilities that serve adult students, some of whom have recently lost their jobs and decided to return to school.

Whether you agree with our endorsements (shown on page 1) or not, on November 6, say no to terrorism by casting your vote. ▼



Editorial

CONSIDER IF YOU WILL, A FOUR-YEAR OLD BOY, WHO BY VIRTUE OF HIS ADOPTION BY A LESBIAN COUPLE DOES NOT EXIST IN THE EYES OF THE STATE. BOTH HE AND HIS PARENTS HAVE UNWITTINGLY STUMBLERD INTO...

THE MISSISSIPPI ZONE

Vote for solar – yes on B, H

by James S. Kraft

It can seem overzealous to begin an op-ed so insistently. A good argument needs to lead us soundly to its conclusion, and a headline like that above threatens to repel those who find the political pungent. But let this be an exception to the rule; for this is no time to be circuitous. An energy revolution is at hand.

We, as a society, must eventually shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This is an obvious, though avoided fact. Fossil fuels are becoming more and more scarce, and though the current administration is maintaining a tap on the Middle East, oil production is expected to peak in 10 to 20 years. Experts assert that our current energy system cannot be sustained into the next century.

In spite of the EPA, the current administration's National Energy Policy relaxes the Clean Air Act, gives corporations license to build a profusion of polluting power plants and pipelines, and approval to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

This will merely prolong the inevitable fact that, one day, we must change from the present, polluting energy system to clean, renewable energy.

Governor Davis's solution to the energy crisis is to build new conventional power plants that will also burn more fossil fuel, emitting more waste into the atmosphere, and thus contributing to California's international status as sixth in the world (as a nation) for producing greenhouse effect gases.

Solar energy asks for nothing to burn, and spews nothing into the atmosphere. The technology is available and is currently being implemented in Japan, Germany, and, thanks to Sacramento's environmentally-conscious MUD, in the neighboring valley.

In contrast to San Francisco, which has yet to sensibly choose a municipal utility district, Sacramento has had its not-for-profit MUD since the 1940s; more environmentally sentient than PG&E, they have

added 9 megawatts of solar energy to their power grid. In fact, SMUD is the No. 1 solar energy producer in the United States.

Practically, if San Francisco Propositions B and H are passed on November 6, the Bay Area could become the battleground for competing solar panel manufacturers, who, as a result, would be reducing production costs. The solar market would burgeon, jobs would be created, and our weakening economy would improve. If Propositions B and H are passed, and if even the minimal solar energy output of 70 megawatts is reached, San Francisco would be the greatest solar power producer in the world, and would double our nation's current solar output.

With Proposition B, \$100 million would be immediately available, supplying 10 to 25 megawatts of solar energy in the city. Panels would be built above parking garages and on water reservoirs.

With Proposition H, city-managed solar power could invest in private residences and businesses, covering rooftops with panel-integrated tiles. According to research at Golden Gate University Law School, solar output could satisfy more than half of the city's energy needs.

Even better, both measures will not come out of our pockets. The profit of solar sales will pay back the revenue bonds spent to install panels. Now that's clean energy.

Lamentably, many corporations in the name of profit hope that popular ambivalence will lead us down the path of least resistance, and away from dynamic change. The "Greening Earth Society," sponsored by the Western Fuels Association, is a perfect example of shameless misinformation. Found on the Internet, they state: "That humankind's industrial evolution is good, and using fossil fuels to enable our economic activity is as natural as breathing."

Sure. Locally, there's PG&E, which would love to maintain its virtual monopoly on the

local energy market. They are cleverly ignoring Greenpeace's anti-global warming campaign which is trying to inform the public of solar energy's potential. PG&E, presumably bankrupt, has spent millions on campaigning against Propositions F and I branding them "too risky" and "too costly." Let's forget about the fact that PG&E has annually hiked up prices 35 percent to 40 percent, and that MUD bills, which can be found in L.A., Alameda, and Sacramento, are generally 18 percent cheaper. Their ad campaign is a fine example of misinformation.

When looked at objectively, isn't it evident that our community and environment would benefit from these measures? Wouldn't it be a step forward as a conscientious, evolving society? Can we as a people progress without being forced to by some great crisis?

From an environmental perspective, Washington is regressing, with Bush and Cheney leading the march downward as starring olists. But at a local level, we can make a difference.

As Einstein said, "The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." Without the informed living proactively, how can there be progress? And certainly, the age of fire must come to a close. As individuals, we must vote to add to the collective voice of progress and support renewable energy. If not, a disaster may loom in the future, while we continue to drill and burn more oil. Instead, with foresight, let's choose the boundless resource of the sun. ▼

James Craft, a 27-year-old returned Peace Corps volunteer, recently taught high school English in Transylvania for two and a half years. He currently lives in San Francisco. Send any questions or comments to jamescraft@hotmail.com.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Herrera for city attorney

On Tuesday, San Franciscans will be casting their votes for a new city attorney. This position is far more important to the LGBT community than many of us realize.

Quietly, and I might add, quite effectively, the city attorney has been defending San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance against two plaintiffs: S.D. Meyers Inc., represented by Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, and United Airlines/the Air Transport Association represented by San Francisco's own Brobeck, Phleger, and Harrison.

The plaintiffs' goal is to have the courts throw out this law which requires that companies doing business with San Francisco offer domestic partners of employees the same benefits spouses of employees receive. The equal benefits ordinance has resulted in over 2,500 companies offering domestic partner benefits, 75 percent of the total nationally according to a report by the Human Rights Campaign in 2000.

For LGBT voters, support for this law plus support and understanding of the litigation – it could reach the Supreme Court – should be a litmus test for candidates for city attorney.

Let's look at the candidates for city attorney. Neil Eisenberg, when asked, had never heard of the equal benefits ordinance. That should be no surprise: Neil has consistently asserted as one of his accomplishments his successful pro bono legal defense of a police officer who was identified by victims and witnesses as having beaten innocent LGBT bystanders during the infamous Castro Sweep in 1989. The Castro was placed under martial law for two hours by police in an overreaction to a demonstration demanding action against AIDS. Funny, we still have an AIDS epidemic, the cop is captain at Treasure Island, and Neil wants to bring his peculiar form of legal advocacy to the city attorney's office.

Another candidate, Jim Lazarus, carries the heavy stamp of Dianne Feinstein on his forehead. What he does not mention is that when he ran for supervisor, he opposed domestic partner legislation then being considered by the board. He has been silent on the equal benefits ordinance.

Steve Williams, endorsed by Tom Ammiano, dis-endorsed by Tom and then endorsed again, initially did not know the plaintiffs in the suit or the legal issues involved. He has become better informed, but protecting the legal rights of our partners does not appear to be his priority. In fact, at a meeting of the group Survive AIDS, Williams did not appear to have any opinions on any issues close to the hearts of the LGBT community or people with AIDS. Note that he requested his appearance at Survive AIDS – merely saying Tom supports him over and over again does not make him a friend of the community, especially since he does not know about our issues.

Dennis Herrera is the final candidate. He is the only candidate who entered the race with an understanding of the legal issues surrounding the equal benefits ordinance and a commitment to its enforcement. He is the only candidate in the race who is aware that this city attorney pioneered the use of civil restraining orders for victims of anti-gay harassment.

One candidate will tell you this race is about PG&E, it's not – you get to vote on that issue this election. The other will tell you it's about Dianne Feinstein – if it is, she should come back and run for city attorney. The other will tell you it's about planning and the fact that Tom Ammiano endorsed him, another anti-Willie Brown candidate. Planning is not the city attorney's job, sorry.

Dennis Herrera is the only candidate in this race who has consistently advocated a vision of a city attorney's office that plays an advocacy role for the human rights of all San Franciscans. Our human rights should be our first priority.

If you have any doubts, talk to a United Airlines employee – here or in Denver, or someone at Chevron/Texaco in Houston, or Bank of America/Nations Bank in Charlotte. Their partners have health care because of the passage of the equal benefits ordinance and the successful, up to now, defense of the law by the city attorney.

Do not, I repeat, do not give up what we have fought so hard to gain. Join Assemblywoman Carole Migden, OCC director Mary Dunlop, AIDS activist Hank Wilson, myself, and countless other LGBT folks in voting for Dennis Herrera for city attorney.

Jeff Sheehy
San Francisco

Lazarus responds

I read with great surprise the editorial that ran in the October 25 edition, which alleged that I was not a "friend" of the LGBT community. Not only was your editorial inaccurate, but in fact, my track record shows many cases of support and advocacy for the LGBT community.

The editorial cited two examples that I do not "get" community concerns, which have no basis in fact – that I objected to Supervisor Britt's efforts to classify

HIV/AIDS as a disability and that I opposed domestic partner legislation in 1990.

I never objected to Supervisor Britt and his efforts to classify HIV/AIDS as a disability and contrary to your statement, I was not a deputy city attorney in the mid-1980s.

Secondly, as a candidate for supervisor in 1990, I did not oppose the domestic partner ordinance, and in fact I supported the domestic partner ordinance publicly and I am still on record as wholeheartedly supporting this legislation today.

I find these charges even more surprising in light of my support of LGBT civil rights, my work as a deputy city attorney with Supervisors Milk and Britt, my successful fight with the Navy, as deputy mayor, for LGBT civilian hiring rights at the Hunters Point Naval Station, and my broad support from community leaders, including: Roberta Achenberg, Phyllis Lyons, Del Martin, Tom Horn, Ralph Payne, Jon Kouba, and Connie Hiatt, to name just a few.

As San Francisco's next city attorney, I would continue advocacy efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

As I was not given an opportunity to address these charges before the editorial was printed, I hope this set the record straight for the readers of the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Jim Lazarus
Candidate for City Attorney
San Francisco

[Editor's note: In our editorial last week, we mistakenly wrote that Jim Lazarus was a deputy city attorney in the mid-1980s, in fact, he was a deputy mayor.]

Disappointed with endorsements

I'm writing to express my disappointment with some of your endorsements in the October 25 edition of the *B.A.R.* The *B.A.R.*'s endorsement against so many beneficial propositions is disturbing and appears underneath to be influenced by unfair decisions by those that choose how to endorse candidates and ballot measures. It also seems to continue to divide the LGBT community against progressive issues. Is the *B.A.R.* that conservative?

I totally agree with your endorsement of Susan Leal for city treasurer. Leal's done a terrific job for San Francisco and the money's safe and protected under her watch and it'd be great to see her move up the political ladder in the years to come.

However, I totally am mystified by your choice of saying that city attorney candidate Dennis "Herrera's opponents, each of whom incidentally, have anti-gay skeletons of one source or another rattling in their closets."

Where's the proof? Is this based on disagreements the *B.A.R.* or its publisher had in decades past with some candidates? How can a new wave of LGBT voters in San Francisco that moved here in the 1990s or the last few years get a fair and unbiased opinion without any proof?

Some San Francisco LGBT voters rely on the *B.A.R.* for an unbiased, informative, fair, and supportive endorsement process and over the years that I've been voting here, it doesn't seem like we're always getting it when elections roll around. How do LGBT voters who don't stay informed of local politics make a decent choice on candidates and issues when the Bay Area's number 1 LGBT weekly selects questionable positions on the candidates and the issues?

I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Steve Williams, a candidate for city attorney. He's an awesome guy and the real progressive in this race and he's endorsed by five progressive supervisors, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the Green Party of San Francisco and many other progressive Democratic neighborhood groups in the city. He's also most likely not hiding any "anti-gay skeletons in his closet" because San Francisco Board President Tom Ammiano endorsed him and Tom wouldn't endorse an anti-gay candidate.

I'm Green, socially progressive, and fiscally conservative and I'm voting for Steve Williams for city attorney. He's truly the best candidate in this race. I'm also voting for "yes" on all the Propositions on this year's November 6 ballot.

I don't expect everyone to agree with me, but hopefully everyone in the LGBT community will at least get out and vote. It would also be nice to see the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the Milk Club, the *B.A.R.*, Robert Barnes, state Senator John Burton, and others stop dividing our community and start working together.

Finally, what about including some Log Cabin Republicans and gay Greens in on some of these processes and local issues important to the LGBT community. If that were to happen, then hopefully we could carry some cohesiveness to the statewide and national levels.

Seth Watkins
San Francisco

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Support for Lazarus

We were disappointed with the editorial that ran in the October 25 edition of the *Bay Area Reporter* that portrayed Jim Lazarus as having "anti-gay skeletons" in his closet. We do not believe it was a fair or accurate portrayal of Jim or his experiences with our community.

To the contrary, through his work in the public sector, his community service involvement and his support of LGBT candidates, Jim Lazarus has been a friend and a supporter of our community.

As the editorial pointed out, the city attorney is the second most powerful elected official in San Francisco. It is critical that the citizens of this city receive fair and accurate reporting prior to the election. The editorial stated several inaccurate statements about Jim and his stands on key issues for our community.

We encourage the readers of the *Bay Area Reporter* to educate themselves about Jim's track record, qualifications and agenda. Jim has received support from throughout this community, from neighborhood groups, Democratic clubs, grassroots organizations, business, labor, and civic leaders. He brings more than 26 years of municipal law experience to this position and is supported by Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has been a longtime friend of the LGBT community.

Once readers receive accurate information, we think they will agree he is the most qualified to do the job.

Roberta Achtenberg, Jon Kouba,
 Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin
 San Francisco

Support public power

On November 6, San Franciscans will decide whether the city should take over electricity service from a bankrupt PG&E or wait for the surprises 2002 holds in store. While PG&E and their allies spend \$1 million warning that public power is "too costly" and "too risky," voters must seriously weigh their options. Proposition F will create a City Municipal Water and Power Agency to replace the Public Utilities Commission with a mandate to meet specific energy conservation and renewable energy goals. Measure I will create an independent municipal utility district (MUD).

In California, major cities like Los Angeles and Sacramento enjoy public power service. As the *Sacramento Bee* noted in its recent endorsement of both F and I, public power customers pay 18 percent less on average than private monopoly customers like us.

The irony of PG&E's campaign rhetoric is that rates are already "too costly" - which is why Prop F and Measure I are endorsed by Consumers Union (publisher of *Consumer Reports*). When rate caps are lifted next March, PG&E customers will face crippling rate increases ranging from 18 percent for some residents and 40 to 50 percent for businesses. The damage to our local economy will be immeasurable.

"Too risky" is an apt description of PG&E's proposed bankruptcy plans. After collecting \$8 billion from customers in bailout fees, selling half of its power plants and transferring billions to out-of-state affiliates, PG&E is now seeking court permission to liquidate its remaining California assets, including hydro-power facilities built at ratepayer expense. Attorney General Bill Lockyer has called on the federal Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate PG&E for transferring \$5.3 billion from local coffers to an unregulated affiliate prior to its bankruptcy filing.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice... As the *Sacramento Bee* endorsement asked, "Will San Franciscans Get Wise on November 6?" Let's act now to protect our economic security - San Francisco needs a local, not-for-profit utility. Don't let PG&E's bankruptcy become ours.

Join the SF Democratic Party, the Sierra Club, Senators John Burton and Jackie Speier, and a broad coalition of environmental, consumer, and labor interests in voting yes on F and I.

Tom Ammann, President
 San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Public power needed

We disagree with the B.A.R.'s stance on Propositions F and I because these initiatives are good for the LGBT community and good for all San Franciscans.

Proposition I would lower our electric bills by setting up a municipal utility district (MUD) run by the city of San Francisco. It would replace PG&E, which will be selling off many of its plants in March 2002, leading to even higher utility bills for all of us. Proposition F creates a municipal water and power agency that will focus on development of solar and wind power as well as energy efficiency for residents and businesses, and deliver water and sewer services.

Forty-five cities including Sacramento and Los Angeles have public power and while we here in San Francisco experienced blackouts, they had power. While we were gouged for our electricity, these other cities paid lower rates. Wouldn't you prefer to pay less for energy that you can count on being there when you need it?

Opponents say that public power is risky and untested, but that's a lie. Over 2,000 cities throughout the country have public power, so there's little risk involved. Public power is a tried and true way to provide consumers with electricity at a lower cost than we're paying now.

Community leaders such as Tom Ammann, Mark Leno, Harry Britt, Carole Migden, and organizations such as the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club are also saying yes to public power. You should say yes to F and I, too.

Douglas Lam, Denise D'Anne,
 Lani Ka'ahumanu, Tommi Avicoli Mecca,
 Jill Nagle, Robert Haaland, Esperanza Macias,
 Robert Starkey (a.k.a. Truth Fairy),
 Larry Roberts, Debra Walker,
 Rebecca Logue-Bovee, Saskia Traill
 San Francisco

In support of Prop. C

Having worked on the drafting of Proposition C, we feel that the *Bay Area Reporter* misconstrued the intent and effect of the measure, and we urge our readers to vote for this reasonable reform. The measure is supported by every member of the Board of Supervisors, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the local Democrat, Republican, and Green parties, the Harvey Milk LGBT and Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic clubs, the Log Cabin Republicans, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, and about two dozen other community organizations.

In San Francisco and elsewhere in the state, as early as four months after a vacancy occurs for the House of Representatives or for the state Senate or Assembly, a special election is held and the voters choose a successor. Under San Francisco's charter, when a vacancy occurs in a city elective office, the mayor (in most instances) or the Board of Supervisors (in the case of a vacancy for mayor) appoints a successor who can serve for up to 29 to 48 months before having to face the voters. This is not democracy in action.

Proposition C would require that when a vacancy occurs in a city elective office, the appointee must face the voters at the next regularly scheduled election within four to 12 months of the vacancy occurring. Should Proposition C pass, there will be greater accountability of local elective officials to the voters, at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

Vote yes on Proposition C.

Christopher L. Bowman, Secretary
 Log Cabin Club of San Francisco
 Jerry Threet, President
 Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Driving a wedge?

As a member of the SF Aftershock softball team, I have to take exception to the article by Jim Provenzano ["*Rough diamond*"] in the October 18 edition of the B.A.R. Provenzano's use of half-truths and flat out untruths twisted what was a forgettable incident in the heat of competition into the unfair characterization of a group of opposing players as homophobes.

I can say firsthand that while it is true the Cable Cars softball team was quite vocal in voicing their displeasure regarding the illegal bat, the situation never degraded into "anti-gay slurs" as stated by Provenzano. I find it unfortunate that instead of using this opportunity to report that a softball team representing the gay community was finding success in the SF City League, Provenzano used this instance to drive a deeper wedge between gay and straight athletes in San Francisco.

Andrew Blankemeyer
 SF AfterShock Softball Team

[Jim Provenzano responds: Mr. Blankemeyer should take up the relevance of the story with the manager/coaches interviewed, both of whom claim that their version of events happened. I don't go hunting down cases of softball players cheating or swearing at each other. That's hardly news. The story was brought to us, and three people (one not quoted) concurred that the term "bitches" and "hos" were among the "voiced displeasures," hardly compliments.

What is also news is that the Aftershock may move on to win the division, which was reported.

What good is done by overreacting to this minor incident and its coverage? Standings and victories in the active softball community can be reported with what is called a press release.

I didn't drive any wedges. I don't even golf.]

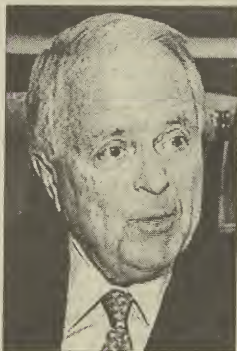
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POLITICS

Richard Riordan set to enter governor's race

by Wayne Friday

Former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan**, already the acknowledged Republican front-runner in the March 5, 2002 GOP primary, is expected to make his entry into the gubernatorial race official Monday, but if last week's one-day state Republican convention held in L.A. is any indication, Riordan is in for a very nasty and bitter fight to gain his party's nomination to face incumbent Democrat Governor **Gray Davis** in the November 2002 general election.



Richard Riordan

Riordan will face two Republicans - millionaire financier **William E. Simon** and California Secretary of State **Bill Jones** - in the March primary, and both conservative candidates are already taking hard political shots at the moderate former L.A. mayor. They are being aided by a number of conservative GOP county chairs throughout the state - all of whom find Riordan much too "liberal" for them. GOP county chairs in counties like Modoc, Plumas, and at least six other counties made it clear at the recent state convention that they don't like Riordan, a moderate backer of gay rights, a woman's right to choose (though he says he's personally opposed to abortion), and a supporter of stronger gun control laws.

Jones, in particular, was very critical of Riordan at the daylong GOP confab, making an issue of Riordan's past habit of contributing to various Democratic candidates. Riordan, with better name identification, and a much better financed campaign than either of his two GOP opponents, faces a bitter primary campaign, and should he get past Jones and Simon in March, he faces an even stronger, well-financed Davis in the November 2002 general election.

The early outlook for the former mayor's chances? He probably wins the GOP nomination in March (he's definitely got the voter name ID and the big bucks) but the conservative statewide party leaders are already suggesting that if he is the nominee they might sit on their hands when he takes on Democrat Davis in the November 2002 race.

Meanwhile, is Riordan, a self-made multimillionaire, ready to finance his own run for governor? Not quite - he is using a lavish dinner at the Beverly Hilton on Monday to make his candidacy official, and is tapping his sup-

porters to the tune of \$50,000 each to be listed as a dinner co-chair (hey, it also gets you a 20-seat table); \$25,000 gets you a smaller 10-seat table and a private reception with the candidate, while a mere \$1,000 gets you into the dinner, but no handshake guaranteed. For some reason, I don't think Davis has all that much to worry about after Simon and Jones finish with Riordan in the March primary; California Republicans are famous for self-destructing.

Politics and people

After reading in the *Chron* Monday that Mayor **Willie Brown** was encouraging lesbian activist **Holly Thier** to enter the 13th Assembly District race to split the gay vote with **Mark Leno** and **Harry Britt** so that his preferred candidate, **Steve Phillips**, an African American, could win, and recalling the recent slick move made by state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) splitting the Castro District into two different state Senate districts, one former Brown supporter was overheard snapping, "Remember when these two guys were actually friends of our community? Do they really think we're going to stand for this?"



Rep. Gary Condit

Remember **Gary Condit**? He's the Modesto area congressman whose intern girlfriend dropped out of sight more than six months ago and the story made headlines for weeks until the September 11 terrorist attacks pushed him out of the tabloids. Well, Condit's wife told a couple of hundred "Condit Country" faithful last week that "I'm behind Gary 100 percent and I hope you will be too," suggesting the embattled representative is about to seek re-election. Democrats all the way from Washington to Modesto, however, have told Condit that he's political history and the party is quickly lining up behind Assemblyman **Dennis Cardoza**, a former Condit ally in the 18th District, despite Condit's campaign manager **Richie Ross** suggesting his man is ready for another campaign.

Proposition 45, a constitutional amendment that would allow state legislators to extend their terms by four years if they obtain sufficient signatures from voters within their districts, will be on the March 2002 ballot and this is the first step in the right direction, I believe, to the end of the senseless term limits laws in this state. In San Francisco, this means that

state Senator **John Burton** could possibly serve another four years. It will not affect the city's two Assembly members, but could affect their replacements, both being elected next year. If the initiative passes in March, no person could serve more than 10 years in the Assembly or 12 years in the Senate.

Last week this column mentioned that Assemblyman **Lou Papan** (19th District) had maneuvered to redistrict San Mateo County Supervisor **Mike Nevin**'s home out of that district, thereby eliminating him as an opponent to Papan's daughter, attorney **Gina Papan** in the March Democratic primary. Well, last week, South San Francisco City Council member **Gene Mullin** entered the Democratic contest for the race and quickly picked up the endorsements of Nevin, state Senator **Jackie Speier**, and a variety of important San Mateo County officials;

maybe Ms. Papan will have to spend some of that \$300,000 her old man switched to her campaign after all.

In San Francisco, the African American community gave a fundraiser/reception, hosted by Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell**, **Kamala Harris**, and **Mohammed Nuru**, at the Monte Carlo Club on 3rd Street for Assembly candidate **Mark Leno** and drew an overflow crowd for the popular supe.

East Bay Assemblywoman **Lynne Leach**, a Republican, will face state Senator **Jack O'Connell**, a Democrat from San Luis Obispo, in March for the nonpartisan office of state superintendent of public instruction; both Leach and O'Connell are termed out legislators.

With the election less than a week away, New York City's hugely popular Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** this week somewhat lamely endorsed Republican **Michael Bloomberg** as his successor; however, political analysts in the embattled city have Democrat **Mark Green** well ahead. Gay and lesbian voters in NYC, incidentally, despite their fondness for Giuliani, are reportedly solidly in the Green camp.

In other news from the Big Apple, Giuliani has reportedly agreed to appear in drag in an upcoming episode of *Queer as Folk*; it's part of a fundraising effort for the September 11 Fund to help gay and lesbian families affected by the terrorist attack on New York City. The idea came during a recent dinner organized by the Empire State Pride Agenda, the New York state gay lobbying group. Giuliani was the guest speaker, and ESPA was auctioning off a walk-on role in *Queer as Folk* at the dinner in which the mayor, and gay and lesbian police, fire, and EMT workers were honored. The show's executive producers of the Toronto-based series were in attendance at the dinner, and ESPA raised \$100,000 at the event. **Howard Koppel**, a longtime personal friend of Giuliani, and one half of the gay couple who is currently housing the mayor (who is estranged from his wife), suggest-

page 14 ►

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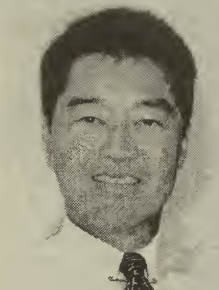
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A Halloween story

by Gwendolyn
Ann Smith

It may seem odd to have a Halloween-related column at the beginning of November, but I have my reasons.

We know all about the modern trick-or-treat. You dress up in costume when you are young, and go door-to-door getting candy from neighbors in exchange for your word that you won't be egging their home, or leaving a flaming bag of dog poo on the doorstep. As you grow older the luster wears off, only to reappear as we attend Halloween costume parties, or romp around the Castro on October 31.

Halloween is magical. It's a night for giving into our darker desires, and a night for exploring those liminal spaces that are so often cut off from us in today's society. If you want to explore the dark realm of the vampire, or just dress up like a sexy witch – then Halloween is the night.

I need hardly mention that Halloween is something of a "national holiday" for much of the transgender community. For the transgendered, it can be that single night in the year where one can explore their gender – or lack thereof – with little worry of reprisal. Obviously, we're talking about something beyond the standard Halloween ghoul or goblin costume.

It gives one an excuse to dress up and have a little fun, all the while knowing that they can face their challengers with a wink and a cry of "it's just a Halloween costume."

It's a lot harder to do that on March 17, I can assure you.

What happens the day after Halloween? The vampire fangs and witch's hat get packed away for another year, and the fake mustache and falsies may also take



an old dress, some ratty shoes, a filched brassiere fitted with makeshift breasts – even a black wig snatched from the dark recesses of the family Halloween costume box. Yet while I had no problem with doing that exploration from November 1 to October 30, there was simply no way I was going to attempt such a thing for a trick-or-treat costume – especially not in public! By attempting such a deception, I would reveal too much truth.

It wasn't until I was in my late 20s that I finally donned a dress on Halloween. A homemade "Belle" costume, to match the "Beast" costume sported by my partner. By that point, I

had already begun my own transgendered journey – yet it was still liberating, being a beauty for that one night, on the arm of my furbearing prince.

My story is not unique: I've known many a person who has pointed to October 31 as a moment of change, a time when transmutations were undertaken, and wheels were set into motion. A moment that becomes addictive, that simply must be expanded on over the years.

What was once a Halloween lark becomes something bigger, maybe the next Halloween the costume gets a little more extravagant. Perhaps a cross-gender look for other costume parties. Maybe even a little April Fool's prank. All in good fun, of course.

I'm reminded of a slogan a friend of mine made about going cross-dressed for Halloween: once we laugh, twice we suspect, and three times we know.

Of course, if that's the case, then I can think of a couple political figures and celebrities that are well beyond the "suspect" level by now.

Yet as I said before, such transformations are not a bad thing. Halloween is there for us to explore, to uncover truths about ourselves and maybe even come away with a level of personal transformation not so easily possible the other 364 days of the year. If you're lucky, it may be a change that can become part of your life outside of Halloween.

So before you pack away those Halloween goods – and if your hangover isn't too bad – ask yourself three things: What did you explore, what did you discover about yourself, and what will you take away from this magical night and make part of every other day of your life?

You may be reading this after Halloween, but I am writing it beforehand. And for myself, I may opt to be a little more fabulous this holiday. I may go from my usual drab dressing down into some alien creature or glitter animal, something over the top and shiny, just for the sake of exploring that part of my spirit.

Who knows, maybe some sparkle will remain behind. ▼

Gwen Smith always gives out the cool candy to trick-or-treaters. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."

Transmissions

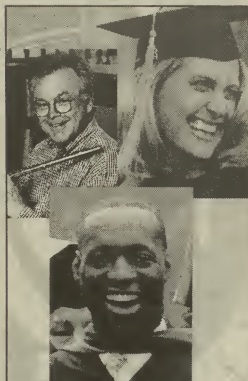
up residence in a box until October 31 rolls around again. Yet Halloween is a night of transformation, and just like a 1950s sci-fi B-movie, some forms of metamorphosis might just become permanent.

That's not a bad thing. Like I said, Halloween can be a night of exploration, and a time to give into desires that we normally keep locked away. When I

was younger, I tended to stick to the classic costumes: ghost, vampire, mad doctor, and so forth. One year, I even expressed my inner trekkie by traversing the neighborhood in a 1960s-style Star Trek admiral's uniform, complete with toy phaser.

There was one costume I never did, though. I never went out as a girl back then. My mom even suggested it one year, when the idea of a good costume was eluding my grasp. On some level I knew that I couldn't – shouldn't – do that for Halloween. After all, I was doing my level best to hide that part of myself that knew what masks are real, and which we opt to hide behind.

By this time I had already done my own experimentation, trying on bits and pieces here and there:



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mistaken identity

by Jane Warner

The Metro bar, 3600 16th Street, October 27, 8 p.m.: During the pre-Halloween festivities, police were called to Market and 16th on a report of a minor traffic accident.

When officers arrived, they found a car double parked fronting the Metro bar but the driver of the car was not inside. One of the officers went inside to look for the driver. When he reached the top of the stairs, the officer heard a sharp crack and felt a sting on his hand. The officer turned to see where the crack had come from and saw a man in a white wig and a dress holding a bull whip. Angry, the officer approached him and asked, "What did you do that for?" The man holding the whip looked shocked and stated, "Oh my god, I thought you were a fake." Although the officer received a lump on his index finger, he laughed about the incident, saying, "I don't dare claim this as an injury." The officer went back outside, found the driver of the vehicle, and finished his traffic report.

Surprise guest

4000 block of 23rd Street, October 26, 5 p.m.: A woman left her house in the afternoon and when she returned about an hour later she discovered the front door to her house slightly ajar. Slowly

pushing the door open, the woman saw her purse on the floor of the hallway. After calling 911, the woman walked up the stairs to the guest bedroom and found the closet door open. She checked inside the closet and discovered several items missing, including her \$2,000 wedding dress. The woman proceeded to the other bedroom and was shocked to see a crowbar laying on top of the bed. When police arrived, they searched the entire house, but the suspect was long gone. Officers filed a report and

arranged for a crime lab to dust for fingerprints. The suspect(s) in the case are unknown.

One too many

Hartford and 17th, October 25, 11:37 a.m.: A Castro beat officer observed a man drinking a can of beer on the corner. As the officer completed the citation for drinking in public, dispatch advised that the man had an outstanding warrant. The officer told the man he had to take him into custody, but the suspect walked away, saying, "I ain't going today." Commanding him to stop, the officer grabbed the suspect by the collar, but the man pulled out of his shirt and ran topless southbound on Hartford. The officer gave chase, tackling the suspect to the ground. As the pair rolled on the sidewalk, the assailant punched the officer several times in the face. The officer was finally able to pin

the man against a cement wall and hold him until officers arrived. An ambulance was called for the suspect who was bleeding from a cut on his forehead. The officer was also treated by paramedics for several cuts to his hand. The 43-year-old suspect, who was booked for battery of a police officer, resisting arrest, and a \$30,000 warrant, told officers he was positive for HIV and hepatitis. The officer was given an appointment for testing. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Pride Committee to meet with leather community

by Matthew S. Bajko

In an attempt to make San Francisco's Pride Parade and celebration more welcoming to the leather, kink, sex, and bear communities of the Bay Area, the Pride Committee will be meeting with the various groups. The theme for Pride 2002 is "Be Yourself, Change the World."

The first meeting takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, November 3 at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street at Harrison. This is the third time in five years the pride committee has held such a meeting.

The meeting is open to the community and members of the public are encouraged to express their ideas on how to improve Pride for their communities.

Saturday's meeting will be hosted by Calvin Gipson, pride board of directors vice president, and Ms. Zoe, San Francisco Dyke Diva 2001. For more information, call the pride committee at (415) 864-0831. ▼

Rosenkrantz gears up for major hearing

by Ed Walsh

A major hearing is scheduled for later this month that could result in parole for gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz who has been imprisoned since 1985 for killing a classmate who physically attacked and outed him.

Rosenkrantz's fight for freedom has been tied up in the courts for two years and his case has become a cause célèbre for parole advocates. Governor Gray Davis, who once vowed to stop the parole of all convicted killers, has done everything he can to keep Rosenkrantz locked up. Although Rosenkrantz has been a model prisoner and has

been strongly recommended for parole by the California Department of Corrections, efforts to free him have been opposed by victims' rights groups that are concerned that his parole could open the floodgates for others.

On Monday, November 19, the three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles is scheduled to take up the case. Two Los Angeles County Superior Court judges have already ordered Rosenkrantz's release, but his freedom has been blocked at every turn by the state.

Last year, the Court of Appeal issued a strongly worded ruling supporting Rosenkrantz's parole. If the appeals court again sides with

Rosenkrantz and orders his release, the state will likely appeal to the California Supreme Court but the high court may refuse to get involved. The state Supreme Court already passed on two earlier opportunities to intervene in the case. Most recently, it refused to hear arguments on the case and bounced it back to the appeals court.

Rosenkrantz had just turned 18 in June 1985 when he shot and killed 17-year-old Steve Redman outside Redman's home in Calabasas, in Los Angeles County. A week earlier, Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, attacked Rosenkrantz and his friends at a party. Redman later outed Rosenkrantz to his father. ▼

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DEA targets medical marijuana providers

Los Angeles pot club raided

by Liz Highleyman

Agents from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency raided the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center (LACRC) in West Hollywood, last Thursday, October 25, in what has become the latest action against medical marijuana providers in California.

Some 30 DEA agents descended on the LACRC Thursday evening, seizing computers, bank records, and over 3,000 current and former patient records, as well as 400 cannabis plants. No arrests were made, and no charges had been filed as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press.

The raid forced the closure of the center, leaving nearly 1,000 patients without the medication they say they need to control chronic pain, chemotherapy-related nausea, AIDS-related appetite loss, and other conditions.

"This action is effectively a death sentence for patients all across Los Angeles County," said LACRC director Scott Imler.

During the hours-long DEA search, West Hollywood City Council members and Mayor John Heilman joined protesters outside the center. At a press conference last Friday afternoon, City Council members and a representative of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department expressed support for the center; the sheriff's office was notified soon before the raid, but did not participate.

"Our city is going to stand with our residents and this club," said City Council member John Duran.

Also present were representa-

tives from the offices of Los Angeles area Congressman Henry Waxman (D), state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), and Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles).

The LACRC is widely acknowledged as one of the most strict medical cannabis providers in the state, requiring patients to receive a doctor's recommendation and undergo stringent screening. According to Jeff Jones of the Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative, the LACRC was "a model medical cannabis agency in Southern California."

Dale Gieringer, of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), called the LACRC "the largest, best organized, and most respected cannabis center in Southern California."

Last week's raid was the latest in a series of DEA actions against California medical marijuana providers that has intensified in the wake of the August confirmation of new DEA chief Asa Hutchinson.

In September, DEA agents raided the California Medical Research Center in Cool, a town near Auburn in the Sierra foothills, seizing records and computer files. The DEA also searched the El Dorado County home of CMRC directors Dr. Marion (Mollie) Fry and Dale Schafer, seizing several thousand patient records and 32 marijuana plants. Fry is a medical doctor who is also a breast cancer survivor and uses medical cannabis herself; Schafer, her husband, is an attorney. The couple was not arrested or charged, but

Shafer said Fry and the couple's 14-year-old son were held in their home under armed guard for several hours.

At an October 22 hearing in Sacramento, U.S. Magistrate Gregory Hollows denied a request by Fry and Schafer to return the patient records. The sealed records are currently under lock and key at the Sacramento federal courthouse.

Bay Area cannabis buyers clubs have reported increased surveillance. According to Gieringer "federal agents have been spotted staking out Bay Area medical cannabis clubs, raiding patient gardens, and encouraging local officials to circumvent California's medical marijuana law."

The recent actions stem from a May Supreme Court decision against the OCBG stating that "medical necessity" could not be used as a defense for circumventing federal drug laws. The LACRC search warrant cited the decision, and Department of Justice officials released a letter from Congressman Bob Barr (R-Georgia) demanding that the West Hollywood center be investigated in light of the court's ruling.

Last week, attorneys for the Oakland club filed a new brief with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals arguing in favor of medical marijuana under new grounds involving interstate commerce, state sovereignty, and the denial of fundamental liberties such as the right to relief from pain and suffering.

"At this time of national crisis, when we are facing the imminent peril of biochemical terrorism," said Gieringer, "it's outrageous for our government to be targeting medical marijuana." ▼

Dutch and British move on marijuana laws

by Liz Highleyman

In contrast to recent medical marijuana crackdowns in California (see story above), some European countries have taken steps to loosen their laws.

On October 19, the Dutch cabinet voted to approve the medical use of cannabis. The Netherlands has long had a famously liberal drug policy, and the use of so-called soft drugs is widely tolerated, although it is not technically legal.

The new law will allow doctors to prescribe cannabis and allow pharmacists to dispense the herb. Dutch legislators hope the change will encourage more medical oversight of marijuana use. According to Health Minister Bas Kuik, "People with painful diseases such as AIDS are going to coffee shops, but there is no doctor who is controlling the use."

Specialized coffee shops in Amsterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands sell smokeable marijuana as well as hashish and cannabis-laced baked goods.

The legislation sets up a Bureau for Medicinal Cannabis to super-

vised quality control over the growth and distribution of marijuana. A date has not yet been set for when the new provisions will go into effect. The Dutch Parliament is also considering legislation to cover cannabis under the country's national health insurance plan.

The Netherlands is the second country after Canada to legalize medicinal marijuana. At the end of July, new regulations went into effect in Canada permitting chronically or terminally ill patients to grow and smoke their own medical cannabis without penalty. Currently, there is no legal source of medical marijuana, but the government plans to begin growing and distributing it within the next year.

Britain

Taking things a step further than the Dutch, British Home Secretary David Blunkett announced last week that people will no longer be arrested for simple possession of marijuana, whether for medical or any other reason. Marijuana possession will still technically carry a two-year prison sentence, but only offenses with a five-year or longer sentence are

grounds for arrest in Britain. The law — which will be put in place through an executive order — is expected to take effect next year.

Britain will reclassify marijuana as a "soft" or Class C drug.

"In spite of our focus on hard drugs," said Blunkett, "the majority of police time is currently spent handling cannabis offenses."

Over 90,000 people were arrested for marijuana offenses in Britain last year. Under the British classification system, marijuana was previously a Class B drug, already a category below Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

The U.S. classifies marijuana, cocaine, and heroin together as Schedule 1 drugs. Over 700,000 people were arrested for marijuana violations in the U.S. last year.

But even Britain did not go as far as Portugal, which recently became the first European country to decriminalize the use — although not the sale — of all drugs. Some other European nations (including neighboring Spain) do not typically impose criminal sanctions on drug users, but Portugal is the first to make this policy an official law. ▼

Community Center postpones opening

by Matthew S. Bajko

Due to construction delays, the new LGBT Community Center will not be ready for occupancy until December. The center's staff, along with numerous nonprofit organizations, had expected to move into their new offices in the middle of November.

"It is a complex, unique building," explained center spokesman Jason Riggs. "What is changing here is when we have control of the building."

Until a city inspector signs off on the center's temporary occupancy permit, the center cannot pinpoint an opening date for the project, interim Executive Director Oren Slozberg said. Opening ceremonies had been slated for the first week of December.

The center will not incur any additional costs due to the construction delays. Nor will the building's programming be impacted. Staff had not expected to begin activities and events in the new building until January.

"Certainly, we will announce grand opening dates when we are confident of them. I would expect them to be in January or February," said Dana Van Gorder, vice president of the center's board. "During January, we will begin in a low-key way to hold events and meetings and program activities in the building to get used to operating it."

The project still needs \$2.2 million of the projected \$15.3 million required to build, equip, and staff the center. To date, the center

has raised \$13.1 million of its goal. To pay for all of the work, the center has taken out a \$1.5 million bridge loan to cover the remaining construction costs.

"We took out the loan to tie us over until we complete the capital campaign," said Van Gorder. "This assures we are able to complete the construction, and furnish and equip the building."

Since August, the center has kicked off a final round of fundraising events to complete its capital campaign drive. A challenge grant from James Hormel, former ambassador to Luxembourg and longtime philanthropist, offered to match donations at \$1,000 to \$2,500 between August 1 through October 31. Through that grant, the center garnered more than \$250,000.

"I don't think we are facing difficulty fundraising. We hope to announce some major gifts in the

next two months that will put us very close to completing the goal," said Van Gorder.

As work is completed on the building, the center's board of directors is currently negotiating salary issues with its top candidate for executive director. The board

Center, as operations and program director. Two positions remain to be filled: development director and communications director.

Two new board members joined the center in October — L.J. Martin and Ken McNely. The additions bring the board's mem-

ber to 20 members.

The Community Center is still searching for an operator to run the building's cafe. The cafe will not only be used as a java joint but also double as a space for comedy club events, poetry slams, and other social events. Located on the first floor fronting Market Street,

the cafe can accommodate 12 to 16 tables and up to 50 people. "We have been talking to the owner of a really great little cafe who is very interested. Hopefully she will be interested in coming in," said Van Gorder.

More than 20 years in the making, the Community Center Project is the first queer building to be built from the ground up in the United States (numerous other LGBT centers in cities across the country were opened in existing buildings). Located at the intersection of Market, Octavia, and Waller streets, it is expected to serve more than 48,000 people a year.

When it opens in 2002, the four-story, 40,000 square foot building will provide 23 nonprofits with office space, run 17 programs in collaboration with 32 organizations, and offer space for every possible event, from meetings to commitment ceremonies. ▼

"It is a complex, unique building. What is changing is when we have control of the building."

expects to make an official announcement sometime in November.

The board has already hired Marin resident Bonnie Anderson as director of finance and operations, and Anne Tamar-Mattis, a former employee at the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information

bership to 20 members.

The Community Center is still searching for an operator to run the building's cafe. The cafe will not only be used as a java joint but also double as a space for comedy club events, poetry slams, and other social events. Located on the first floor fronting Market Street,

AIDS Legal Referral Panel reception next week

by Katie Szymanski

Whether they have sought help in matters of housing, employment, health-care, or last wills, thousands of people have brought over 37,000 issues to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel since 1983. The Bay Area nonprofit provides no and low cost advice and representation through cooperating attorneys to people with HIV who would usually not

be able to afford professional legal services.

ALRP's annual fundraising reception is next Thursday, November 8, from 6-9 p.m. at the JJ Brookings Gallery, 669 Mission Street, in San Francisco. The reception will honor the organization's many volunteers, with awards going to attorney/supporter Carl Wolf; attorney Ray Bacerdo; the law firm Heller, Ehrman, White, & McAuliffe; notaries John Fasesky and Tom Walsh; and the

community service organization the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The cocktail reception will feature a silent auction as well as a brief live auction, with guest auctioneer Supervisor Mark Leno. Event co-chairs are Michael Steele, partner at Pillsbury Winthrop LLP, and Wayne Morris, counsel at Kaiser Permanente. Tickets start at \$50 for individuals, and sponsorships are available; all but \$15 per ticket is a tax deductible donation. Proceeds benefit ALRP's indis-

pensable community services, from providing attorneys to fight discrimination and draft personal documents, to hosting public trainings on housing, health, and employment law.

"ALRP appreciates its family of supporters and welcomes the opportunity to recognize its volunteers," Bill Hirsh, executive director of ALRP, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Those interested in purchasing tickets may contact Hirsh directly at (415) 701-1200, ext. 308. ▼



ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

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FOR CITY ATTORNEY

**Dennis
Herrera***

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Supervisor Mark Leno • SF Democratic Party
Bay Area Reporter • Former Supervisor Leslie Katz



RE-ELECT TREASURER

**Susan
Leal*▼**

ENDORSED BY: Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi • SF Democratic Party
Bay Area Reporter • Supervisor Sophie Maxwell

FOR MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Alice B. Toklas supports Public Power, but recommends a NO vote on Prop I establishing a Municipal Utility District (MUD). We believe Supervisor Ammiano's Prop F, the Municipal Power Authority, is the faster, less expensive way to bring Public Power to our City.

However, should Prop I pass, we believe the following MUD Board candidates would do the best job:

WARD 1

Dan Kalb*

WARD 2

Luigi Barassi*

WARD 3

Phil Ting*

WARD 4

Crystal Chamness*▼

WARD 5

No Endorsement

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A.... YES*

Rebuild City
College

Prop B.... YES*

Leno & Ammiano
Agree: Solar Power

Prop C..... YES

Appointees should face voters

Prop D..... YES

Let the people decide on Bay fill

Prop E..... NO

Stop the bureaucratic power grab

Prop F.... YES*

The Better Plan for
Public Power

Prop G..... NO
Don't delay new Supervisor
boundaries

Prop H... YES*

Ammiano &
Leno Agree: Solar
Power

Prop I... NO*

Confusion,
Delay and
Litigation

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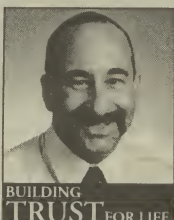
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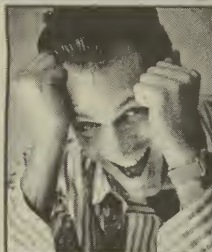


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SLDN hosts 'End the Witch Hunts' dinner

by Bob Roehr

Maryland Governor Parris Glendening summed up concerns of gays and lesbians serving in the military during the war on terrorism. "There are gay and lesbian members of the armed forces on the land, in the air, and on the sea fighting against terrorism to preserve freedom. These heroes also, unfortunately, must fight a second war, the war against harassment and discrimination," he said.

Glendening made the remarks during his keynote address at the ninth annual "End the Witch Hunts" dinner, held October 25 in Washington, D.C. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network sponsored the event that drew more than 600 participants.

Glendening spoke movingly of his brother Bruce, who served 19 years in the Air Force, volunteering for two tours of duty in Vietnam and later dying of AIDS.

"He absolutely loved the Air Force," said Glendening. He recounted their last conversation when Bruce was in a great deal of pain. "He told me, what hurt him most was that he had to live his life in secrecy. That hurt him more than worrying about being killed in Vietnam, or even dying the painful way he was dying."

"He had to live every single day a lie. That is just not acceptable in this country." The governor said that service members are fighting to defend our freedom, "And yet the very [gay and lesbian] protectors of our freedom are denied the right to live their lives as they see fit. No one should have to live their lives like this. It is shameful and it must end."

Glendening called the nation "a mosaic of many different cultures and religions. Our diversity is not a problem to be managed, it is a strength to be celebrated." He was "absolutely outraged" to hear that Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson blamed gays and others for the terrorist attack on New York and Washington, D.C., and that Falwell now is using the incident to raise money.

The governor contrasted the fundamentalists' behavior with that of "one of the very first heroes in the conflict against terrorism, a gay man named Mark Bingham... who on September 11, before the world really understood what was happening, understood and took action" in helping to crash United Flight 93 in western Pennsylvania, short of its



SLDN's Dixon Osburn and Maryland Governor Parris Glendening at last week's dinner.

target in Washington, D.C.

"There is no courage greater than sacrificing your own life to save the lives of others. That was the courage of Mark Bingham," Glendening said. "He was not a hero because he was gay, he was a hero who also was gay."

He called SLDN "an indispensable lifeline to so many service members who not only show the courage to defend their country but also must bear the burden of hiding a central part of themselves in order to do so. Right now your organization is needed more ever."

SLDN Executive Director Dixon Osburn used the theme of courage in his remarks to the audience. He praised Glendening for pushing for Maryland's gay civil rights bill, "Not just because it was the right thing to do, but to honor the memory of his brother."

He cited the courage of former Air Force Lieutenant Shalandra Baker who did not give in to the threats to "out" her from an abusive girlfriend. Baker spoke with her commander and with SLDN, though unfortunately she was not allowed to remain in the military.

"We do not know if we are on the cusp of a large scale war, or a surgical strike, or worse," said Osburn. "But there is one thing that we do know, that lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members will be there on the front lines defending our freedom. And that is courage."

Osburn made it clear that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" remains in effect; gays and lesbians are still subject to discharge from the military. "The stop-loss orders in the Navy and the Air Force, they still

say gay people are not welcome, go home," Osburn said.

He said that SLDN has assisted more than 3,000 service members over its eight years of existence. He asked those who have served or are serving in the military "and who feel comfortable in letting us know that, to please stand and be recognized." Nearly a hundred men and women did so, to great applause.

Osburn was encouraged by recent developments. "We have a very good dialogue [with the Pentagon] that is ongoing." Earlier in the year, a group of military jurists recommended doing away with the sodomy statutes within the services, in a document known as the Cox report.

He called the Army publication *Dignity and Respect* "the most comprehensive training guide" for implementing DADT. And he told the story of one soldier who confronted anti-gay harassment and with the support of his commander, is continuing to serve.

There were other signs of progress as well, he added.

"Officials at Fort Bragg apologized to us, and in the base newspaper, for publishing an anti-gay political cartoon. They said that cartoon was against the Army's core values. A few years ago, that would have never happened."

Osburn pledged, "Our strategy works and we will keep fighting until we win this battle." ▼

For more information about SLDN, go to www.sldn.org, or call (202) 328-3244.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

ed that Giuliani should do a drag role on the show if donors could cough up another \$100,000 for the cause. The mayor, long a supporter of gay causes, stunned everyone present by quickly responding "if it means more money for relief funds, sure."

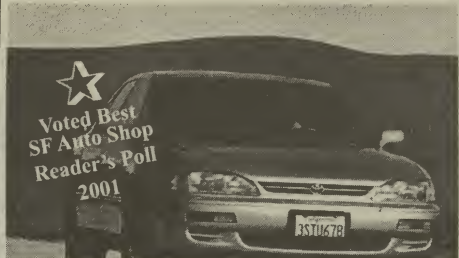
The San Francisco Democratic Party has endorsed **Dennis Herrera** for city attorney; the S.F. Republican Party has endorsed **Jim Lazarus**, and the S.F. Green Party wants me to know they have endorsed **Steve Williams** for city attorney, made "no endorsement" for treasurer, and urges a yes vote for Propositions A and B.

For three consecutive days last week, nearly 300 disability rights activists, mostly from out of town, blocked city streets in San Francisco with their wheelchairs, protesting the renovation of Laguna Honda Hospital, the city's lone facility for long-term and disabled care. San Francisco voters approved a 1999 bond measure to rebuild the 130-year-old hospital over the next decade, and while I agree that the open wards in the hospital must be done away with in favor of private rooms, the protesters did nothing to gain sympathy for their issues by jamming up the streets last week. Protesters came from as far away as Massachusetts, Florida, and Texas to urge the city not to spend the \$400 million to renovate the hospital,

saying the city should use the money to provide care for people in their homes rather than force them into institutions. Laguna Honda is often the place of last resort for low-income residents who are seriously or terminally ill and can no longer care for themselves. Patients living with AIDS also reside there. The protesters met with the mayor, who reiterated that city voters overwhelmingly approved the bond measure two years ago.

Tuesday, November 6 is Election Day in San Francisco. Because some have asked, here are my recommendations: Elect **Dennis Herrera** city attorney; re-elect **Susan Leal** city treasurer; vote yes on Propositions A and B; vote no on the other propositions.

And how was your week? ▼



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Maryland anti-gay initiative heading down on illegalities

by Bob Roehr

A petition by the far right group TakeBackMaryland.org to put that state's recently passed gay rights law to the voters seems likely to be thrown out by the court. The homophobes appear to have violated state laws in collecting some of those signatures and did not gather enough valid ones to require a referendum. The legal wrangling likely will continue for several more months.

The Maryland state Legislature passed the Anti-discrimination Act of 2001 earlier this spring and it was to have gone into effect on October 1. But when TakeBack filed what initially appeared to be

sufficient valid signatures — only 1,411 more than what state law required, according to the state board of elections — that put the law in limbo pending results of the November 2002 vote.

Gay rights advocates countered with their own legal action on July 30, charging both misrepresentation of the petition on the part of some who circulated it, and improper certification of petitions by county elections officials.

"We found enough signatures that should not have been validated, almost 5,000, that we thought we should challenge the petition," said Charles J. Butler, an attorney with the prestigious Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling. He sued on behalf of the gay group Free State Justice and 24 other plaintiffs.

The court appointed Walter Childs as "special master" to investigate issues surrounding the signatures and report back to it.

His report on October 5 noted factual errors with 6,519 signatures that are "subject to challenge."

Based on that report, Butler began taking depositions from petition circulators with the TakeBack group, in preparation for the anticipated trial. Each interview is conducted under oath. He has conducted five so far and plans on perhaps a dozen more.

In a private conversation, Butler could barely conceal his glee. The fine churchgoing circulators clearly did not want to lie under oath. They admitted that sometimes the wording of the petition was not attached to the document that people signed, and that some of the petitions were left at religious bookstores and picked up later, sometimes missing data was filled in by someone other than the person who signed the petition — all of which are violations of the law.

Butler said that many of those he interviewed were uneasy, because they had come to understand that their actions were illegal. "They had perjured themselves when they signed the petition saying they had witnessed each signature," he said, and they were coming to understand that there is a legal penalty associated with those violations.

The TakeBack leaders reacted with their usual tactics of name-calling. "The ACLU and Maryland's homosexual lobby are using search and destroy political tactics to disenfranchise citizens in our state," whined Pastor Matt Sine.

Co-founder Tres Kerns accused Free State Justice of "using legal technicalities" in challenging the petition.

Free State Justice Executive Director Blake Humphreys is grinning broadly, but the group continues to prepare as if it will face a referendum on the state's gay



Attorney Charles Butler

rights law next November. This week it is interviewing people for the position of campaign director.

But it also is hoping to offer just a three-month contract, by which time they hope that the court will finally have put a stake through the heart of the petition effort. And Maryland will become the 12th state in the nation where a comprehensive gay rights law is in force. ▼

March tonight

◀ page 1

told, must be remembered, and must be celebrated."

Through the Sisters' research, 13 gay and lesbian victims have been identified so far, according to Sister Merry Peter, who acknowledged that there are likely "countless more."

"A lot of people are simply still missing, and for our particular community our stories get overlooked and sometimes they get hidden," she said. "As we researched their lives we were touched by how many of them led courageous and active lives before September 11. So we're going to do more than mourn, we're going to celebrate their lives and the strength and power we receive from all who have gone before us."

There is an old biblical tradition, explained Sister Merry, that in times of danger and sorrow, the community can call on the strength of a cloud of witnesses to come around and strengthen their hope and joy.

The telling of the stories will "raise up a cloud of witnesses who testify to the courage, love, and joy alive in the gay and lesbian community," according to the Sisters, who emphasize that on All Saints Day, "the veil between the living and the dead is thin."

The march will begin at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco at 150 Eureka between 18th and 19th streets. It will proceed down 18th to Castro, and reach its final destination at Harvey Milk Plaza. Along the way, the march will pause to reflect on the lives of those lost. At each stop, the name of a terrorist victim will be raised up with a value they represented. At Harvey Milk Plaza, participants will be invited to call out the names of other saints who have gone before and who inspired the struggle for civil rights, a cure for AIDS, women's health, and a safe world for LGBT families.

"We will shout out all of their names," said Sister Merry, "and bring them back to life."

Candles will be provided but participants may bring extras, as well as flowers, photos, or other gifts to the saints to leave as a shrine.

For more information, call (415) 640-7840. ▼

Log Cabin Club of San Francisco/ Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights Endorsements for the November 6, 2001 Election

City Attorney: Jim Lazarus. As Chief of Staff to two San Francisco Mayors, Lazarus has more experience in local government than all of his opponents combined. He will continue to professionalize the City Attorney's office and unlike his opponents, Lazarus will not endorse or oppose local candidates or ballot measures.

City Treasurer: Susan Leal. During her tenure as Treasurer, Leal has modernized and streamlined her office, and invested City revenues wisely, receiving the highest return on investments of any large county in California. Her opponent is an avowed Trotskyite, perennial candidate, and leader of the "Progressive-Left" Slate.

MUD Board, Ward 2: Joel Hornstein. Should Measure I pass, it is essential that the new MUD Board include fiscally responsible and knowledgeable board members. Hornstein fits that bill. Trained at Harvard and Yale as an economist and lawyer, Hornstein has worked on Wall Street and has extensive experience on energy issues.

Proposition A: YES. Ensure that San Francisco has an educated work force in the decades to come.

Proposition B: NO. Solar power may not work efficiently in San Francisco given our often foggy weather.

Proposition C: YES. Make appointees to local elective office more accountable to San Francisco's voters.

Proposition D: No Position. At what stage should City voters should approve runway expansion at SFO?

Proposition E: YES. Reform the Department of Elections, Ethics Commission, and City Attorney's office.

Proposition F: NO. Contrary to the claims of proponents, everyone will pay higher, not lower utility bills.

Proposition G: No Position. Delaying local redistricting could hurt women and minority candidates.

Proposition H: NO. The voters should retain the right to vote on the issuance of revenue bonds.

Measure I: NO. PG&E may be unpopular, but this measure could cost City ratepayers \$800,000,000 if the MUD Board expropriates PG&E's transmission lines, and possibly as much as \$3,000,000,000 if the MUD Board additionally expropriates power plants and phone, cable TV, and garbage services. This is a Trojan Horse Initiative.

The Log Cabin Club of San Francisco/Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights was founded in August, 1977 and is the oldest predominantly LGBT Republican volunteer organization in the nation. Formed to defeat the Briggs' Initiative (Prop. 6), the club has worked over the years to educate Republican office-holders and candidates and party leaders, delegates, and members about LGBT and AIDS-related issues, and to be a voice of reason within the LGBT Community on fiscal matters, property rights, crime, and quality of life issues. For more information about LCCSF/CRIR, call Randy Bernard at (415) 786-8131 or write us at Log Cabin Club of San Francisco, P. O. Box 14174, San Francisco, CA 94114. Membership is \$60 annually for registered Republicans, \$20 annually for non-Republicans.

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Anti-gay ballot initiatives in Michigan and Houston

by Bob Roehr

Three Michigan communities face initiatives on the November 6 ballot on to amend city charters to bar enactment of legal protections for gay citizens or their offering of domestic partner benefits to gay employees. Similar petitions were circulated in a handful of other Michigan localities but failed to qualify.

"We firmly believe that the Michigan [LGBT community] is under electoral attack" from the far right, said Beth Bashert, president of Michigan Equality. "Michigan looks like it has a bad rash of these [anti-gay ballot initiative] petitions being circulated," she told an October 19 teleconference with reporters, organized by the Human Rights Campaign.

According to members of the Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination, Gary Glenn, head of the American Family Association of Michigan, is spearheading the anti-gay effort. "What we have is one man who is trying to build a statewide political machine on the backs of gay people. He is doing that one city at a time," said Paul Heaton, manager of the Traverse City organization.

Glenn has refused to disclose his financial contributors as required under state law. One newspaper report had him claiming that such disclosure would leave contributors open to persecution on the basis of their religious beliefs.

Two heavy contributors to right wing causes live in Michigan and are believed to be supporting the AFA efforts, activists claimed. They are Richard DeVos, a founder and major stockholder of Amway, and Tom Monaghan who founded and made a fortune with the Domino's Pizza franchise.

"These ballot initiatives are part of a more organized effort from national extreme political organizations," said Seth Kilbourn, national field director for HRC. "While the names may be different, the source of money and political power is coming from national organizations." That is why HRC is assisting in the fight against them, he added.

Kilbourn believes that the right has targeted Michigan because it is a battleground state where both major political parties are competitive and elections can swing back and forth between them. He sees it as offering an organizing opportunity for HRC "to identify gay voters and gay supportive voters who we can turn out on Election Day."

Mari Cooper is managing the Fair and Informed Residents of Huntington Woods, a small upscale community of just 4,800 voters, southeast of Detroit. They are seeking endorsement of city council action that added sexual orientation as a protected category, which the AFA of Michigan challenged through petition.

The campaign relies largely on volunteers going door-to-door. It has collected \$8,600, which is a lot for a campaign in the small town. They have more than 500 endorsements and are adding to that at the rate of about 25 a day "to identify the 'yes' votes with your neighbors," Cooper said.

"There is a lot of buying in" on the part of the town, added Cooper. "It has become a kind of outsider versus insider battle that is resonating with local voters."

"People have been direct in their correlation with what happened on September 11," she said. "Often we hear direct comments between the religious right who are working in opposition to the human rights ordinance and the activities of the Taliban."

Robert Dempsey is managing the Kalamazoo Against Discrimination campaign, where the AFA of Michigan is trying to roll back domestic partner benefits to city employees. He compared the effort to that of Huntington Woods, and said they are appealing to voters' "fairness and common sense."

In Traverse City, the AFA group mailed a postcard earlier in the week with a photo of a Boy Scout saluting the flag. It said, "Protect our Boy Scouts, support American values." Heaton said the local Scout council "went apoplectic" over unauthorized use of its name and image. The AFA apologized.

Heaton said the tactic by the right "seems to be to inflame and scare people by talking about all of the evil, awful things that gay people do. It is not resonating up here, people are getting angry. There is a quiet resolve that we are not going to let the bad guys get us again."

Houston

Houston, Texas is facing an attempt to amend the city charter to prohibit the city council and mayor from offering domestic partner health benefits to those

who are not "a legally married spouse" or child of a city employee. It also would prevent imposing such requirements upon city contractors.

Grant Martin is campaign manager of People for a Fair Houston. He characterized initiative organizer Dave Wilson as an extremist who advocates that gays "be quarantined on an island" until they all die of AIDS.

Wilson has so alienated establishment Republicans that they "have disassociated themselves" from the initiative and are not taking a position on it, said Martin. "And for the first time, the black Baptist ministers are supporting our side."

He said the biggest problem is money to finance the media-heavy campaign plan. Their initial budget of \$1 million was cut to about \$600,000 after the September 11 terrorist attacks. They completely shut down fundraising for 10 days, "then started it up gingerly with key supporters" and found a lot of people saying, "I sent my money to the Red Cross," Martin said.

Wilson has loaned Houstonians for Family Values about \$75,000, said Martin. "But he [Wilson] doesn't have that kind of money. He is not reporting where it is coming from, which is a violation of campaign financing laws."

Still, Martin is upbeat. He said, "If we can turn out our base, we have a shot at defeating this thing." ▼

Ashcroft orders use of new powers

United Press International

Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered federal law enforcement agencies Friday, October 26 to immediately use broad, new police powers. The order came, as promised, shortly after President Bush signed the new anti-terrorist law last Friday.

Ashcroft pledged immediate implementation of the law last Thursday in a speech before the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The attorney general's order went out to all 94 U.S. attorney's offices and 56 FBI field offices in the United States.

"Law enforcement is now empowered with new tools and resources necessary to disrupt, weaken, and eliminate the infrastructure of terrorist organizations, to prevent or thwart terrorist attacks and to punish the perpetrators of terrorist acts," Ashcroft said in a statement. "The American people can be assured law enforcement will use these new tools to protect our nation while upholding the sacred liberties expressed in the Constitution."

Civil libertarians are expected to challenge some of the provisions in court. The provisions in the new law are designed to improve surveillance of terrorists and increase the speed with which they are tracked down:

- Prosecutors will seek judicial authority to intercept communi-

cations related to an expanded list of terrorism-related crimes such as the development, possession, or use of chemical or biological weapons; financial transaction with a terrorist government; or providing material support to terrorists or terrorist organizations. Investigators will use "roving" wiretaps to intercept communications and thereby thwart the ability of terrorists to evade surveillance by switching phones or communication devices.

- Investigators will now aggressively pursue terrorists on the Internet, the department said. The legislation permits investigators to obtain senders' and receivers' e-mail addresses just as it is done with telephone surveillance. Investigators will use search warrants to obtain unopened voice mail and e-mail.

- New subpoena power will enable authorities to obtain payment information, such as credit card or bank account numbers, of suspected terrorists on the Internet.

- Investigators will be able to use a single court order to trace a communication nationwide, even when it travels beyond the judicial district that issued the order. The scope of search warrants for unopened e-mail and other evidence will also be nationwide. The department said the change will save hours or days in investigations.

- Law enforcement and intelligence communities will share information on terrorist activities. ▼

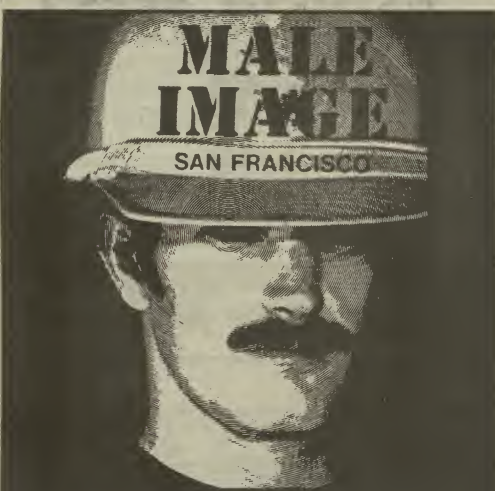
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Diamond Heights residents happy to keep Police Academy

by Joe Dignan

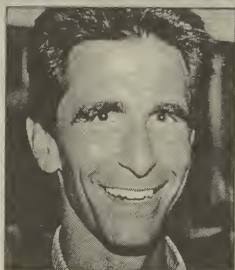
Fifty Diamond Heights residents gathered last Thursday, October 25 in a classroom at the Police Academy for a town hall meeting. They heard from candidates for city attorney, from both sides of the public power debate and met other political candidates. But the main point of the evening was the room they were sitting in.

"We just won a five-year battle to keep the Police Academy here in Diamond Heights," said Lee Ann Prifti, president of the community association in the neighborhood. "We had no chance in the beginning. It was the old Board of Supes."

The academy sits on a prime 4.9 acre site near Diamond Heights Boulevard. The Police Department had planned to sell the property and use the proceeds to move the academy to Treasure Island and fund construction of a new central station downtown.

Diamond Heights residents opposed the move, they said, because the cadets patronize local businesses and provide a feeling of safety and security to the neighbors.

Supervisor Mark Leno, who was a key figure in the decision to



Supervisor Mark Leno

leave the academy where it is, spoke at the town hall meeting and was all smiles about the outcome. The academy is in his 8th supervisorial district and as the chair of the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee, he had a main role in stopping the Police Department's plan.

The police had hoped to sell the Diamond Heights property for somewhere between \$6 and \$11 million, depending on its eventual use. Ultimately, because of declining federal support for Treasure Island, the rent tab to the Police Department was finally fixed at over \$1.2 million per year.

"The plan was ill-conceived and ill-fated. The figures just never

penciled out," said Leno. "One of the significant unfactored costs was the great expense necessary to restore the Treasure Island facilities."

That, along with strong opposition to the development design from the academy's neighbors and the millions in projected renovation costs to the Treasure Island facility, led Leno to kill the plan.

"The Diamond Heights community expressed their concerns loudly and articulately. Through their advocacy, the project finally failed," said Leno.

"During the supervisorial elections all the candidates said 'no moving,'" said Prifti. "And Mark did too, and stuck with it, even though he was appointed by the mayor. That took a lot of courage."

"They were right on the issue. They understood quickly that the project would not make financial sense nor in any way serve the Diamond Heights community," said Leno.

Diamond Heights has long been a politically active community. "Diamond Heights comes in first in voter turnout in nearly every election," said Prifti. "We're an activist community. Lots of our residents are professionals or retired professionals who participate in the city. We care." ▼

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New youth HIV site hits cyberspace

by Katie Szymanski

What's young and fresh and read all over? Whatudo.org, an HIV/AIDS Web site for youth, launched in late October by the University of California, San Francisco.

It's newly up and running, but the site already features a handful of links to active online communities, including UCSF's own HIV InSite database. The project was made possible by a grant from the San Francisco Giants Community Fund, and targets the 12- to 25-year-old age group, directing users to information, opinions, and chat rooms on health, dating, and sex.

"Adolescents, teens, and young adults speak a different language, and our intent was to re-package the knowledge from HIV InSite,

without changing its quality, into a form that is more approachable and therefore more useful to young people," said a statement from Dr. Paul Volberding, co-director of HIV InSite.

Whatudo.org starts by posing an interactive question to users, opening with a scenario, ("Your boyfriend doesn't want to wear condoms. What do you do?") and posting the results of how teens cope with the difficult challenges of navigating safer choices. The site also includes interviews with youth activists, and offers opportunities to post messages, chat with other youth, and join activist efforts. While it is not the first youth HIV site, it serves as a gateway to many different sites, and offers information to HIV-positive youth, an often ignored segment of the community.

The San Francisco Giants

Community Fund provided the site's \$40,000 start-up grant in 2000, and earlier this summer, the Until There's a Cure Foundation supplied \$20,000 more. Other donors include the local Rotary Club chapter and the advertising agency Kirchenbaum, Bond and Partners West.

While the site tends to focus on Bay Area resources, national and international links will be added soon. Also in the site's future is the inclusion of young people in its ongoing development, through internships and partnerships with local schools or educational groups.

More than half of all new HIV infections worldwide occur in people 15-24 years of age. In the United States, girls make up 58 percent of all new AIDS cases and African Americans make up 60 percent. ▼

Kris Kovick

◀ page 3

begins the classic, which later remarks, "I said 'Take both dangit, don't leave me hangin.' They said, 'Lady, it's cancer, not a sex change.'"

"Kris always took her hard stuff and made people laugh about it," said Breedlove. "It enabled people to listen and understand what it's like to continue to live in the face of a terminal illness."

Kovick most recently encouraged Breedlove to produce her own spoken word show, a venue that Breedlove was unfamiliar with as a participant. The show went up on Saturday, the day after Kovick died.

"It was a complete success," said Breedlove. "She would have loved to see the commitment of all the artists there. I knew I had made Kris proud."

Those same people who used to stop by are still hanging around the house, according to Breedlove, who spoke from a noisy home teeming with guests earlier this week. More people are expected to travel in from afar to pay their respects and be near Kovick's energy in any way they can.

"Family was a huge thing in Kris's life, and she created her own," said Breedlove. "She attracted amazing people to herself. She was the most sensible, wise, loving, and encouraging person; she was on your side no matter what it was you needed."

Perhaps most affected by the tragedy is Sam, Kovick's yellow Labrador. Sam - indisputably regarded throughout the city as a unique creature - continues to live with Breedlove. Neighborhood dog owners knew Kovick and Sam for their romps in Precita Park, where Kovick was a regular pooper-scooper and parental supervisor of puppy play.

"This is an incredible loss for everyone," said Breedlove of Kovick's passing. "But she was ready, and it was time, and she was at peace with it."

Kovick's chosen family members are planning a memorial service within the next couple of weeks. Kovick often downplayed her accomplishments and reportedly requested no memorial service, but she also hinted that she would understand if her family disobeyed that request.

"One good thing to come from this," remarked Kovick's surviving partner Sara Moore, "is that we're finally able to heap tons of praise on her without her telling us to stop." ▼

For more information on Kovick's life and family, as well as contact information for donations and the planned memorial, see Kovick's obituary on page 21.

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Carole Migden to seek legislation involving second-parent adoptions

by Cynthia Laird

Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) announced Monday, October 29 that she would author legislation to grandfather existing second-parent adoptions in light of last week's ruling by the state Court of Appeal in San Diego that jeopardizes the rights of thousands of lesbian and gay families and bringing the future of children in those families into question.

The court ruled 2-1 last week that California law does not authorize second-parent adoptions.

New legislation, to be introduced when the state Legislature re-convenes in January, would grandfather existing court-approved adoptions, protecting them from further judicial uncertainty, Migden said.

Migden's chief of staff, Alan LoFaso, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the assemblywoman would attempt to move the bill as quickly as possible. It appears, however, that getting the bill on an emergency track might be tricky. To move a bill under the "urgency" clause of the Legislature requires a two-thirds vote, which could prove difficult.

It is not known if Migden has spoken with Governor Gray Davis to enlist his support for her planned legislation, since the San

Diego court decision was just handed down last Friday.

LoFaso also said that Migden would seek to craft the legislation in such a way as to state that second-parent adoptions approved by courts in previous years have always been valid.

"The bottom line is that we want to preserve as much stability in these families' lives as possible," he explained.

The appellate court's decision argued that the Legislature never authorized second-parent adop-

tions for same-sex couples. Migden's proposal would change that for couples who have already gone through the second-parent adoption process.

Newly enacted domestic partner legislation (AB25), authored by Migden and signed last month by Governor Gray Davis, protects future couples by allowing same-sex couples registered as domestic partners to adopt a partner's child by using the step-parent adoption procedure currently used by spouses.

Although the new domestic partner law provides an unsailable legal basis for future adoptions, last Friday's appeals court ruling could cost lesbian and gay couples' children important rights, such as health benefits, Social Security payments, inheritances, and visitation in cases where partners have broken up or died, Migden noted.

"The paramount role of any family law is to protect the interests of children and existing parental bonds," said Migden.

"The appeals court failed to place the interests of children at the center of its decision making. Now it is imperative for the Legislature to step in to protect these children."

Migden's office added that notwithstanding last week's ruling, second-parent adoption decrees from California family courts remain valid, unless overturned in a family or appeals court.

The new step-parent adoption procedure enacted by AB25 takes effect on January 1, 2002. ▼



NCLR's Kate Kendell

Adoptions

◀ page 1

estimate that tens of thousands of same-sex couples have adopted using this method. They fear that this decision will be broadly construed as precedent unless reconsidered by the court, overturned by the California Supreme Court, or superseded by legislative action.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday that an appeal is planned, and she is confident the court will reverse part of its ruling.

Kendell said that NCLR and other legal groups are working with Friskopp and plan to petition

the appeals court as early as next week for a review before the same three-judge panel. If that effort is unsuccessful, the next step would likely be an appeal to the California Supreme Court.

"All we need is one [judge] to change their mind," Kendell said, referring to the original 2-1 ruling by the appeals court panel.

"Adoption law is supposed to be construed liberally. The law is always read to promote the child's best interest. There is no way that the best interest is to render children's adoptions invalid," Kendell said.

"In the meantime, adoptions remain valid," Kendell added.

While acknowledging that last week's ruling has the potential to "wreak havoc" on second-parent adoptions, Kendell said that she and other attorneys will do everything possible to make sure that doesn't happen.

"Nothing has gone into effect," she said, referring to last week's decision.

"I have a second-parent adoption of my son. And what the court failed to appreciate and what is so insulting is that they appeared to ignore and disregard the practical and legal reality of my relationship with him," Kendell said. "We believe that upon reflection, the court will see the enormity of its mistake and modify [the ruling], particularly the retroactive part of this decision."

One of the key provisions of California's new gay and lesbian rights law, Assembly Bill 25, authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) is a mechanism for adoptions of children by same-sex parents, but that legislation will not go into effect until January 2002.

If it stands, the San Diego decision will have the most effect where an AB25 adoption is not possible: when the couple has moved out of state, when one has died, or when the couple is no longer living together.

"I think a lot of that is hysteria," said Silverstein's attorney Dodd. "There are court orders out there that say these folks have adopted the children. Unless someone troops into court, they are still valid."

Linda Scaparotti, co-chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, agreed with Kendell that the decision is not immediately binding.

"The worst thing this ruling does, other than appearing to negate thousands of LGBT families, is create confusion and uncertainty for non-lawyer LGBT families," Scaparotti said in an e-mail message to the *B.A.R.* "While attorneys know that an opinion does not become final for 30 days, lay people do not. Most people

probably do not know that the case will go up on appeal, and while it is up on appeal, it will not be binding.

"Also, the community should continue to affirm faith in our various family units, continue to recognize the legitimacy of non-biological parents, and the right and need of children to have the security of (at least!) two legally recognized parents," she added.

In cases involving a separated same-sex couple, an existing adoption could be successfully challenged by the birth parent if this judgment stands.

In any case, to accomplish an adoption under the provisions of AB25 will require a completely new court proceeding with its attendant costs and legal fees.

Scaparotti said that for those families who don't want to wait for Migden's planned legislation [see story, above] that would grandfather past second-parent adoptions, or while the San Diego case is appealed, they should file for step-parent adoption under the provisions of AB25 in January.

"We are lucky that AB25 passed at just the right time, giving the community an active option, a safe way to ensure legal parental status, one that is statutorily protected," Scaparotti said.

'United in love'

Friskopp and Silverstein, the couple in the San Diego case, once enjoyed happier times. They became involved in 1989 and moved to San Diego together in 1990, according to court records. On April 11, 1992 the couple exchanged vows and "were united in love before God" in an interfaith commitment ceremony in San Diego. The ceremony was widely covered in the press and even made ABC's 20/20 news program, in part, the couple surmised, because both wore white bridal gowns. Both are Harvard MBAs and wrote a book together, *Straight Jobs, Gay Lives*. Silverstein gave birth to two sons both by artificial insemination, one in 1996 and a second in 1999.

Silverstein's Web site, now shut down, at one time linked visitors to pictures of their first baby, their commitment ceremony, and linked to her "co-author and partner in love in life," Friskopp.

The couple separated after the birth of Silverstein's second son, and the case began as a dispute between the two women over visitation rights to the younger of the two children. A Superior Court judge first ruled that Silverstein had waited too long to withdraw her consent to the second-parent adoption; last week's appellate court decision stated that there was no legal basis for the adoption.

Silverstein and Friskopp have

page 20 ►

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Quarterly report shows AIDS deaths continue to decline

by Matthew S. Bajko

Twenty years into the AIDS epidemic, the disease has transformed itself from being an immediate death sentence into a persistent health issue, shows the city's third quarterly AIDS surveillance report for 2001.

The number of AIDS deaths has continued to decline, with only 164 reported deaths as of September 30, 2001 compared to 1,820 reported in 1992. And the number of reported AIDS cases is also less than reported in previous years: 468 to date in 2001 whereas the city saw 1,874 back in 1992.

"The trend we see is pretty much the same direction we have seen the last several years: AIDS cases have gone down and the number of deaths have gone down," said Dr. Sandra Schwarz, the city's surveillance unit director with the Department of Public Health. "We don't see any real shocking changes in that."

Cumulative AIDS reported cases for San Francisco over the last 20 years totaled 27,770 and cumulative deaths reached 18,870. During the three-month period from July 1 to September 30, 2001 the city tallied 124 AIDS cases and 199 deaths. DPH officials caution that reporting lags from physicians may result in incomplete tallies in the report.

The only number on the rise is the number of people living with

AIDS. Back in 1992, 6,634 people were living with AIDS. Today that number is at 8,900.

"If there are more people living with AIDS, then on one hand that is a good thing. It demonstrates AIDS therapies are working and perhaps turning this into a chronic medical illness as opposed to an immediate life crisis where people will die within five years," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD prevention and control services for San Francisco's Department of

Public Health. "The flip side of that is there are more people capable of spreading the virus. On an individual level it is a good thing, but on a community level you have to be concerned."

Men continue to be the hardest hit by AIDS. Out of the 302 people diagnosed this year with having AIDS, 270 (89.4 percent) were men, 26 (8.6 percent) were women, and six (2 percent) were transgender. Whereas between 1999 and 2000 women showed an increase in those diagnosed with the disease, from 55 to 60, this year has so far shown a significant drop for women.

Looking at the ethnicity of those diagnosed, whites made up

58.6 percent (177 people), African Americans 23.5 percent (71 people), Latinos 11.9 percent (36 people), Asian/Pacific Islanders 5 percent (15 people), and Native Americans 1 percent (three people).

With gay or bisexual males continuing to be the hardest hit by AIDS, this year comprising 64.6 percent of AIDS cases, those working in AIDS prevention believe there is still a need to increase these men's critical consciousness about the role of HIV and AIDS in

"We have to continually ask gay men what they want from HIV prevention."

their sex lives. "When I look at this, I see that six years ago the local gay community was experiencing a huge amount of disease and death. Now, while many people are aware that HIV is still serious and often deadly, the lived daily experience of AIDS is quite different from back then," noted Brian Byrnes, director for prevention services at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"We have to continually ask gay men what they want from HIV prevention. It is not helpful for us to tell them AIDS is still the overwhelming experience that it was in the early 1980s and 1990s. That is not effective prevention."

Looking at the ethnicity of those diagnosed, whites made up

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"When I look at this, I see that six years ago the local gay community was experiencing a huge amount of disease and death. Now, while many people are aware that HIV is still serious and often deadly, the lived daily experience of AIDS is quite different from back then," noted Brian Byrnes, director for prevention services at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "We have to continually ask gay men what they want from HIV prevention. It is not helpful for us to tell them AIDS is still the overwhelming experience that it was in the early 1980s and 1990s. That is not effective prevention."

Stress, disease, & HIV

by Bob Roehr

Common wisdom has maintained that stress can be a contributing factor to ill health and delayed recovery from disease. Two recent studies are backing up that lore with scientific proof.

Dr. Phillip Marucha and his colleagues at Ohio State University measured stress in mice. One group of the critters was confined in tubes for 15 hours a day so that they couldn't move around, while the other group was allowed to roam in their cages. Both were deprived of food and water during that 15-hour period.

After three days of restraint, both groups were inflicted with skin wounds, and a portion of each group also was exposed to the common bacteria *Streptococcus*. The stressed group continued to be confined to tubes for portions of the next five days.

The researchers found that 85 percent of the stressed mice became infected with strep while only 27 percent of the non-stressed mice showed signs of infection. The levels of bacteria in the stressed mice were about 100,000 times that found in the wounds of the non-stressed mice. "That's an astounding amount," said Marucha.

"The bottom line was that stress shuts down either the recruitment or the function of im-

mune cells needed to fight infection," he said.

Other researchers have found lower concentrations of disease fighting cytokines in the skin of women who are under stress, suggesting that stress affects humans about the same way.

UCLA research

At the University of California, Los Angeles' AIDS Institute, researcher Dr. Steve Cole studied the autonomic nervous system (ANS) activity of 13 HIV-positive men, age 25 to 54. ANS is a series of measurements of things like blood pressure, heart rate, etc.

"People with higher ANS activity tend to be more high-strung and easily stressed out," explained Dr. Jerome Zack, who assisted with the research.

The patients started a combination therapy for their HIV while the doctors monitored their ANS, CD4 T-cell count, and viral load. They found that the level of stress was a powerful predictor of response to therapy.

Viral load dropped 40-fold in those with low levels of stress and less than 10-fold in those with high levels of stress. Five of the seven low stress men quickly reached undetectable while only one of the six men with high ANS did so.

"Those at the top of the high ANS activity group showed no immune recovery at all," said Zack. Some of them even contin-

ued to lose CD4 cells, despite starting therapy for the first time, while those "with low ANS activity rebounded from 396 to 550 CD4 cells."

The researchers went to the lab for an explanation. They exposed T-cells to the hormone norepinephrine that nerves release when under stress. What they found was a five-fold increase in the number of CCR5 and CXCR4 receptors on the T-cell surfaces.

The hormone was bringing more of these molecule receptors from deep within the cell to be exposed on the outside of the cell membrane. These receptors are the ones that HIV uses to invade cells. So stress made each cell much more vulnerable to infection.

Norepinephrine also allowed HIV to multiply more rapidly once it entered the cell.

"It's a double whammy," said Zack. "Norepinephrine enables HIV to enter the immune cells more easily and to reproduce more readily. So more virus gets in and more virus comes out, resulting in a ten-fold increase in the amount of virus produced."

One broad implication of this research is the importance of reducing stress for both maintaining health and a speedy recovery. It also suggests that developing pharmaceutical interventions that reduce the hormonal impact of stress could contribute to the fight against HIV disease. ▼

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Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

Housing help for victims of gender identity discrimination

by Shannon Minter,
Senior Staff Attorney,
NCLR

This is the first in an occasional series of columns coordinated by the Transgender Law Project. Each column will try to answer basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities. While some of the information provided is specific to San Francisco, other parts are applicable throughout the state.

Today's column deals with a tenant who has been a victim of gender identity based harassment and discrimination.

Q: My landlord and one of the other tenants in my building have been harassing me because I am transgender. Is this illegal? Where can I get help?

A: First of all, I want to acknowledge how distressing it is to face this kind of harassment or discrimination. Home should be place of safety and refuge—not a battleground. The tempting solution would be to tell your landlord off and move to a more affirming apartment. As we all know, however, San Francisco's rental market makes this a difficult if not impossible option for most people. Therefore, it is particularly important for you to know what your rights are and where you can

go to get help.

Luckily, San Francisco's local anti-discrimination ordinance explicitly prohibits gender identity based discrimination and harassment in housing. While the state law does not include the term "gender identity," most cases of gender identity discrimination will be covered by "sex." A smaller, but still significant, number will be also covered by "disability" and/or "sexual orientation."

In practice, sometimes it is hard to tell if you are being harassed or discriminated against based on gender identity alone or in combination with some other factor such as race, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. For purposes of fighting housing discrimination, though, you only need to be able to show that the prohibited conduct is motivated, at least in part, by any one of these protected categories.

There are several nonprofit and government agencies in San Francisco to help you understand and exercise your rights. While it is difficult to get free legal assistance for housing issues other than evictions, a good deal of information is available for representing yourself in negotiations and complaint hearings. Below is an overview of the law, followed by contact information for organizations that can help you.

SF anti-discrimination ordinance

San Francisco Municipal Police

Code (Article 33 sect. 3304) prohibits housing discrimination based on a number of factors, including gender identity. Under the ordinance, it is unlawful for a landlord to verbally harass you on the basis of gender identity, especially if the landlord engages in this harassment in an attempt to get you to move out. Also, if you are being verbally harassed by an employee of the landlord or by another tenant in the building and you have told the landlord about the harassment (preferably in writing), the landlord is required to take steps to prevent further harassment.

The city ordinance is limited in two ways. First, it cannot be used to sue your landlord in civil court. Instead, claims under the ordinance are handled by the Human Rights Commission which has the power to investigate cases, make findings, and conduct mediation. HRC does not, however, have the power to force a landlord or a fellow tenant to do anything. But, if what you want is to maintain your current housing and if you think your landlord will stop harassing you if she or he is informed of the law, filing a complaint with the HRC is an excellent, no-cost avenue for resolving the situation.

Second, the ordinance does not apply to landlords if they or a family member occupy one of the building's living units and either share a kitchen or bathroom facility with the prospective tenant or the building contains less than three dwelling units.

The HRC will, however, accept complaints against roommates or housemates. If your roommate attempts to evict you or engages in harassment based on your gender identity, the HRC will accept and investigate your complaint. You can contact the HRC at (415) 252-2500.

California law

The Fair Employment and Housing Act prohibits, among other things, housing discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, and sexual orientation. While state law does not include the term "gender identity," most cases of gender identity discrimination

will be covered by "sex." A smaller, but still significant, number will also be covered by "disability" and/or "sexual orientation."

FEHA prohibits discrimination and harassment in a wide variety of areas, including: rentals, evictions, lease terms, and housing conditions. It also requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Finally, it prohibits retaliatory action against someone who has filed a claim, participated in an investigation of alleged discrimination, or actively opposed discrimination.



Legal Translations

And, similar to the San Francisco ordinance, a landlord can be held liable under California law for harassment by the landlord's employees or by other tenants in the building. If you have told the landlord (preferably in writing) about harassment, the harassment continues, and the landlord does not take steps to prevent it, the landlord can be held responsible. However, the act has not yet been interpreted to apply to harassment by housemates or roommates.

To pursue a claim under FEHA, you can file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing at no cost and without the assistance of a lawyer. If the department finds evidence of discrimination they may try to negotiate a settlement between the parties or in very rare cases litigate the case on your behalf. You are not, however, required to file a complaint with DFEH before filing a lawsuit. DFEH can be reached at 1-800-233-3212.

Self-help
Some housing problems can be resolved by showing your landlord that you know your rights and that you are willing to enforce them. The following three San Francisco nonprofits specialize in helping tenants learn about and exercise their rights.

Self-help

- Housing Rights Committee: (415) 281-8380 (counseling line).
- St. Peter's Housing Committee: (415) 487-9203 (English and Spanish).
- San Francisco Tenant's Union: (415) 282-6622 (recorded)

information).

In addition, the San Francisco Rent Board offers easy to understand information about your rights under the SF rent control ordinance. You can access information via phone (415) 252-4600 or the Web (www.ci.sf.ca.us/rentbd). Counselors are available between 9 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Mediation

Mediation is often an excellent alternative to litigation especially if you want to remain in your current housing and do not want your landlord to compensate you with money. In addition to the HRC, Community Boards (415-552-1250) is a San Francisco volunteer organization that helps resolve disputes and is especially good for disputes among roommates and neighbors.

Litigation

Finally, if you can afford a private attorney, the Bar Association of San Francisco can provide you with attorney referrals at (415) 989-1616.

While this column lays out a number of options for combating harassment and discrimination based on gender identity, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the time and effort that goes into doing so. Enforcing your rights can sometimes seem like a full-time job. But, following the steps laid out in this column should eliminate some frustration and make the fight more manageable.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

The Transgender Law Project is co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Pride Law Fund. If you have questions about gender identity discrimination or are a transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and/or genderqueer person with other legal questions, please feel free to contact the project's coordinator and Tom Steel Fellow, Chris Daley, at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or e-mail daley@nclrights.org.

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Contact Michele Downing, RN, at 514-0550, ext. 354
email: mdowning@php.ucsf.edu
Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

Adoptions

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been criticized by some in the community for pursuing the case while understanding the precedent it might set for tens of thousands of other gay and lesbian families.

"Lesbian and gay people should not be using homophobic decisions or laws against other lesbian and gay people, including decisions that don't recognize us as families," said Charlie Spiegel, interim director of All Our Families Coalition.

Spiegel said that AOFC fielded a slew of phone calls from worried same-sex parents after news of the decision appeared over the weekend.

"The case is terrible, with a result our organization worked tirelessly against, and will continue to

do so," Spiegel said.

He added, however, that same-sex parents who have second-parent adoptions should put the case into perspective, and sought to calm fears of gay and lesbian parents.

"It is important that we all see that the *San Francisco Chronicle* story [last Saturday] only stated that the decision 'could invalidate' similar adoptions, and only could do so, if among other things, one of several appeal strategies fail. The only adoption directly affected so far by this decision was the one in San Diego at issue in the case."

San Francisco's gay political leaders were very concerned about the decision. Supervisor Mark Leno called it "potentially very dangerous."

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammann said, "I find it very worrisome. We have some fine

legal minds in the gay community, and we're going to need them."

Advocates of gay marriage said that the decision creates another strong argument for marriage equality. "This is just another example of why gay and lesbian families need full and equal protection of marriage and family law. With that fundamental equality missing, you get case after case of families fighting over the thousands of benefits and responsibilities," said Jim DeLaHunt of Marriage Equality California.

Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, summed up the position of most gay and lesbian rights activists on the decision. "I've been doing this for 30 years," she said. "It's not over till it's over."

BALIF's Scapartotti said that the organization would soon be hosting a forum on the San Diego case and AB25. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Kris Kovick



Author, cartoonist, and community pillar Kris Kovick died Friday October 26, 2001 in her Bernal Heights home in San Francisco after an eight-year struggle with breast cancer. She was fifty. Kris was born in Fresno, and raised in Wilsonia, California, first gender-bending and performing in public when she got in trouble in kindergarten for impersonating Elvis.

Kris distinguished herself as a gay and women's rights organizer at Fresno State in the 1970s. After five years in Seattle, she settled in San Francisco in 1980 and became heavily involved in the Bernal Heights community.

The first woman to enter the printing trade in the Pacific Northwest, Kris

worked as an etcher and scanner operator for 25 years. She made an indelible mark across the country as a cartoonist, humor writer, journalist in local gay newspapers, performance art and spoken word producer, and mentor. She is widely credited with founding the women's spoken word scene in SF, hosting a monthly show at Red Dora's Bearded Lady Cafe from 1991 to 1993. Her cartoons and writing have been published in dozens of periodicals, zines, anthologies, and humor books. *What I Love About Lesbian Politics is Arguing With People I Agree With* is her collection of essays and cartoons. She toured with Sister Spit, the performing all-girl word circus, and last year founded San Francisco in Exile (www.SFinExile.org), an on-line audio archive of queer spoken word.

The mayor of Norwich Street, "Uncle Kris" is survived and will be sorely missed by her most beloved yellow Labrador Sam, ex-wife Dr. Clare Bright, girlfriend Sara Moore, chosen-

family Karen Browne, Ajila Hart, Mark Lammers, Erika Lopez, brothers Laura and Ginger, and many dear friends.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission, SF, CA 94103. Send inquiries about a memorial and your Kris stories, pictures and poems to kriskovick@onebox.com, or 22 Norwich, SF, CA 94110.

James Harold Ellingsen

June 8, 1951 — October 12, 2001



Jim died peacefully at home ending a short but brave battle with pancreatic cancer on Friday the 12th of October. Jim dealt with his medical problems the same way he lived his life, with grace

and dignity. Being an over-achiever came as second nature to Jim. He graduated with honors from Greendale High School in Wisconsin in 1969, excelling in computer science. Jim received his Bachelors degree from Madison University in Wisconsin where he also graduated in the top of his class in 1973.

Jim moved to the Bay Area in the early 1970s where he immediately found work in computers. Jim was an avid photographer and found beauty in the simplest of things. He touched the heart of many and will be missed. He is preceded in death by his first lover of 18 years, Joseph Proetto, and by his faithful feline companion of 21 years, Romana. Jim leaves to mourn his second lover of three years, Isaac K. Lopez III; his Mother Lillian Nelson; brothers Don and Bill; and sisters Kris and Heidi. He also leaves behind his close friends Pat, Bill, Elizabeth and Elliot.

There will be a memorial service for Jim to celebrate his life on Saturday, November 3rd between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30

p.m. at the Beach Chalet located at 1000 Great Highway at the Western edge of golden Gate Park, between Fulton and Lincoln in San Francisco. Everyone who knew Jim is welcome to attend. If you would like more information, please call (415) 285-5039 or e-mail: txtbear@hotmail.com

Carlos Jose Mosca

March 2, 1962 — October 23, 2001



On Tuesday, October 23, surrounded by his Mother, Eric, Doug, Harlow & Rob, Carlos passed away after a long and brave fight due to complications with liver disease.

Carlos is survived by his Mother, Hilda Villamil; partners Doug, Eric & Richard; and many loving friends.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Carlos received his M.D. in 1985 from the University of Puerto Rico, did his residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at the University of Michigan. He moved to San Francisco in 1992. He retired from Davies Medical Center.

Active in square dancing, the leather community and bowling, a member of Dignity, Defenders, Western Star Dancers, Midnight Squares and the Gay Callers' Association. A member of Foggy City Dancers, El Camino Reelers, Squares Across the Border and the Thursday Golden Gate Trios bowling league.

Thanks to the staff at UCSF Hospital for their devoted care.

A celebration of Carlos' life, on Sunday, November 4, at the 7th Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1329 Seventh Ave., San Francisco, 2 p.m., with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Dignity San Francisco. We will all miss you! Woo!

Bingham memorial plan meeting Nov. 10

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno will hold a town meeting next weekend to explore the idea of a permanent memorial in the Castro for Mark Bingham, the gay San Francisco man killed on United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11.

The meeting will be held on

Saturday, November 10, from 3-5 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, on Eureka Street between 18th and 19th streets. Leno is expected to be joined by Bingham's former partner, Paul Holm, LGBT veterans, representatives of the office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, and the Castro Area Plan-

ning and Action group.

Bingham was one of the passengers who is believed to have fought with the hijackers forcing them to miss their intended target thought to be the U.S. Capitol or the White House. All 44 people on board that flight were killed when it crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

Bingham, 31, was an avid rugby player and a member of the San Francisco Fog rugby team. ▼

Health officials

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only 10 in 1998 to 89 reported cases through the first nine months of 2001. In 2000, the city saw 47 cases of syphilis among men who have sex with men.

Among the cases in 2000 and 2001, the health department found that 19 percent of those men met their partners online, with 89 percent saying they used AOL's chat rooms.

Since September 1999, when he first documented a correlation between STD outbreaks and use of chat rooms, Klausner has tried to get AOL to post warnings in its San Francisco M4M chat rooms. He said his requests went nowhere until last month, when both the CDC and the state of Virginia began talking to AOL.

AOL responded they would post such messages but did not state how they would script the messages or when they would begin posting them. They did offer the health officials free access to their chat rooms.

However, Klausner said that is not sufficient. He wants the messages to be continuously shown in the chat rooms, day and night.

"They should be continuous messages until the risk is abated, in the same way there are warnings on tobacco products or alcohol products," he said.

One of the first organizations to start working online was the Stop AIDS Project, which received

a \$150,000 grant from DPH last year to launch its program. Since January, volunteers and staff members have been trained and are entering chat rooms to spread prevention messages.

"It is common sense to anyone in the Internet world," that men hookup through the computer, said Steve Gibson, the nonprofit's co-executive director. Four volunteers and one staffer enter into different chat rooms with screen names that alert other users to their presence.

"We were very concerned about it being well received by guys cruising online. We decided we wouldn't go online and start lecturing on condoms," said Gibson.

This month, Stop AIDS will begin hosting forums on Gay.com about STDs and safe sex. Gibson said he hopes men will use the resource to ask questions on everything from anal intercourse to syphilis.

"This is part of an overall continuum on how we as a community-based agency should be doing prevention," said Gibson. "We are learning a lot about what guys are talking about and how they get information online."

In Chicago, where syphilis is also on the rise among gay men, the Howard Brown Health Center also has put staffers into chat rooms.

"We have a grant from the Chicago health department to use the Internet for outreach," said Dr. Fred Rachman, medical director of the center. "The grant funds a

part-time position to be working in the Internet chat rooms and engaging people in conversations about safe sex."

As chair of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's policy committee, Rachman said while his organization has yet to take an official position, he supports the recent move to online prevention.

"It is a way to reach men that we might not reach in other ways," especially closeted or bisexual men, Rachman said.

Whether it is effective or not remains to be seen. Men logged into AOL's San Francisco M4M chat room expressed mixed reactions to the idea.

"I think it's a great idea for the same reason that it's a good idea there are health ads in the Castro and elsewhere," replied a 29-year-old San Francisco resident using the screen name Astlboy. "People should be reminded of the risks of their activities. And AOL should be responsible about the fact that lots of people use AOL for sex."

However, another user did not want to have to read a continuous message.

"I think that it is important that everyone take personal responsibility for their actions and treat each sexual contact as though it may be with someone that might have an STD," replied a 23-year-old San Francisco resident using the screen name Davie N CA. "I don't think a message sent out on a regular basis, or as an update, would have much of an impact." ▼



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Quebequeer

Montreal wins Gay Games

by Jim Provenzano

Like a ray of light shining toward some sort of hopeful future, the news spread fast of Montreal's winning bid for Gay Games VII. The gay-friendly city will host the quadrennial GLBT sports event in 2006.

"Montreal's team demonstrated an overall knowledge and keen understanding of what it takes to make the Gay Games a successful event," said Federation of Gay Games co-President Gene Dermody in the FOGG news release from Johannesburg, South Africa, where the winning bid was decided last week.

"We are delighted and honored," said Gay Canadian Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury, honorary co-president of the Montreal 2006 committee. "Montreal will host a spectacular Gay Games and take the movement and its values of participation, inclusion, and personal best forward in the years leading up to 2006."

"This has been such a wonderful experience to participate in the vote selection of Gay Games VII," said federation board member Jerry Ervin to members of Team San Francisco via e-mail. "I must say that all of the bidding organizations did an absolutely incredible job of presenting their bid to the Federation of Gay Games. We all can be proud that Montreal will be the next host."

Montreal's bid received enthusiastic support from the city and provincial governments. Other key factors in the federation's decision included the depressed Canadian dollar (which makes Canada much cheaper to visit than the U.S.) and the U.S. ban on HIV-positive foreign visitors, which was strongly denounced by European attendees and others at the Johannesburg meeting.

A perennial goal of these annual meetings is to educate members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities who wish to join the Gay Games movement. This year's annual meeting marks the first time the federation has held their annual meeting on the African continent.

According to FOGG, the location was chosen as a tribute to the continent's LGBT athletes whose courage has engendered appreciation of the benefits of athletic participation for personal achievement and building community solidarity. The federation's presence in Africa also demonstrates the Gay Games' commitment to its worldwide goal, which has expanded over the last 19 years to empower par-

ticipants from all around the globe.

"We've come to Africa for this meeting because we believe in what we are doing, we believe that Gay Games can change the world," said Dermody.

"In spite of recent world events, we have 150 people here from more than a dozen countries," he said. "That sends a strong signal to the LGBT and non-gay communities about our commitment to what we are doing. We are all about strengthening our communities by eliminating obstacles that prevent any person from reaching his or her personal best."

The FOGG facilitated a "How to Organize a Gay/Lesbian Sports Group" workshop

on Friday, October 19 at the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality offices in Johannesburg. The workshop, which brought together a multinational group of more than 20 Africans, provided a forum to share individual experiences and

collaborate on ways to build a community around sport, interact with local and international athletic groups, raise funds, and publicize their activities.

"Global change begins with local change," said Rick Peterson, one of the workshop facilitators and an individual director of the federation. "The Gay Games offers a highly visible beacon of hope and inspiration to LGBT athletes, artists, and friends around the world. A great way to improve one's own life and one's community is to build opportunities for healthy friendships, camaraderie, teamwork and pride through active participation in an organized sport – that is what the workshop is all about."

Despite its advancements in civil rights for LGBT people, South African athletes are hampered by the economics of travel and training.

Johan Steyn, a 400-meter hurdler who traveled 25 hours by bus from Namibia with other fellow athletes to attend the workshop said, "I am a gay athlete from Namibia, and there are not many of us there. Yesterday was a fun day, and it really gave me much useful information to help me identify other gay athletes in Namibia, organize a group and raise funds. I really want to participate in the Gay Games VI in Sydney."

To learn more about how you can help such athletes achieve their goals, visit www.gaygames.com.

On your Mark

Among the Canadians representing the Montreal bid was Mark Tewksbury. The former



Out in Africa: Johannesburg athletes participate in a Gay Games workshop; Mark Tewksbury flexes in front of Montreal's Olympic Stadium.

Olympic swimmer won three medals (gold, silver, and bronze).

Known for his much-publicized coming out that broke the day his one-man show premiered at Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Tewksbury's affable nature has won him many fans, before and after coming out.

But like many gay athletes, Tewksbury competed for years while in the closet.

"The only gay swimmer I knew of was Greg Louganis," he said of those days. "And he was spoken of terribly behind the scenes because of his sexuality. So in that regard, it pushed me further back into the closet."

Not that he wasn't in the public spotlight. The Mark Tewksbury Junior Swim Bursary supported youth aquatics for four years in the mid-1990s. And as the Bugle Boy spokesperson the year he won the Olympics, Tewksbury got to model designer jeans.

The medal-winning swimmer and model is also an author. Tewksbury's book *Visions of Excellence: The Art of Achieving Your Dreams* sold 20,000 copies and is now out of print.

Throughout the August press trip to Montreal promoting that city's bid, Tewksbury was recognized by many people on the street during gay Pride celebrations.

"Being recognized has just become a part of my life," he said. "I take it as a privilege and a responsibility. It just means that I'm aware that what I do will have consequences, and act accordingly."

A highlight of his career was an exciting race in July 1992 where he defeated fellow Olympian Jeff Rouse. To many, this event elevated Tewksbury to the role of a Canadian sports hero.

Subsequently, he was asked to become a member of the International Olympic Committee. He traveled extensively to Turkey, Russia, and nine other cities, but had few chances to search out gay adventures.

"I did sneak out a bit," he said. "I'm thinking of doing a one-man show about those experiences."

But before the scandals of IOC bribery amid selections of Salt Lake City and other venues became public, Tewksbury quit in protest of what he saw as pervasive corruption.

"Sometimes in life you get to the point where it is too painful not to speak out," he said. "That was where I found myself. The corruption was too rampant not to notice, and I felt that I could no longer be a part of the Olympic movement. It was a devastating time to leave the movement which I had devoted so much of my life."

Blow out

Tewksbury was the only athlete to step down from that committee. Before coming out, Tewks-

bury moved to Sydney, Australia, for a few years.

"I did it as a gold medalist and not through my gayness, although Sydney was the city where I explored my sexuality," he said. "The immigration challenges I faced had more to do with my boyfriend of three and a half years – Benjamin Kiss – who was Swiss. We wanted to have him move here but found the pressure of me being legally responsible for him for 10 years too much to bear. In the end he moved back to Europe. We broke up in January." Tewksbury is currently moving from Toronto to Montreal.

During his swimming career, Tewksbury battled some attempts to out him. He even lived with a female friend for a while, but never actually claimed to have a romantic relationship with her.

"When you're in a sport that is so much your focus that, in my case, everything else got put on hold," he said. "I didn't know how to deal with my sexuality so I didn't deal with it. That made winning the Olympics extra challenging, because I felt like a fraud when everyone turned me into a national hero who was the boy next door. Little did they know I was a bit of the girl next door, too!"

While competing, Tewksbury knew he was gay, but never acted on it, and regrets that even in what is considered a sexy sport, there is not an atmosphere of gay-friendliness.

"Competitors are a horny bunch," he agrees. "But in my experience that was focused solely on the heterosexuals. Gays were too afraid of being exposed to act on it. Basically these athletes focus their energy on a performance for most of the year, and at the end of the major competition they have a blow out, so to speak."

A personal journey

"There were many years of sexual frustration," he said. "The incredible thing is that I was recently at IGLA (the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics) and it turned out that many of my friends on the team were also gay, but none of us admitted it to each other. If only we had the courage to come out then, we would have had a built in support group for each other."

After stepping down from the IOC, rumors of Tewksbury's sexuality swirled in gay gossip columns. He made the decision to come out, and Canada's *Globe and Mail* broke the story in December 1998.

But while remembered for these victories and acts of courage, Tewksbury has moved on. He no longer swims competitively, and in addition to a successful motivational speaking career, he wrote and starred in his acclaimed autobiographical one-man show.

"For the most part, I've put these memories behind me," he said. "I speak a great deal about sport, but more in the context of

life, and from an ethics and value standpoint. I think what has happened to the IOC is an excellent example of what happens when you do not bring the values that you stand for to your own life."

In addition to offering an alternative to the Olympics, Tewksbury enjoyed the opportunity of representing the Gay Games VII bid for many reasons.

"I still think that sport poses one of the last closets for gay people," he said. "It's a real challenge to be a part of a team and expose your difference to them. The ramifications are very real for many people; losing the chance to play, to be coached, and becoming ostracized by teammates. I wish I had found the courage to come out when I was actively competing, but that only came later."

Tewksbury agrees that competitive swimmers are often perfectionists, and he suffered some of those symptoms.

"I think the bottom line is that I strove for betterment," he recalled. "I have been called driven and unmerciful when it comes to myself, but I have a much more spiritual outlook on life now. It's taken some of the intensity away from having to be perfect, especially because there is no such thing as perfection. I think in terms of progress now."

As part of that progress, he helped found the Positive Space Campaign, an awareness campaign that promotes acceptance of difference on various college campuses across Canada.

Included in that progress is his freedom to speak out on behalf of GLBT athletes, and comment on the IOC.

When asked about its decision to give the 2008 Olympics to China, Tewksbury called it "predictable. It was all about [retired IOC director] Juan Antonio Samaranch in Russia [during his IOC visit there], and nothing to do with the Olympic movement."

Tewksbury remains comfortable as a public figure for a variety of situations, including the Gay Games bid. As a co-host of Canada's biggest national morning show, *Canada AM*, he gets "all kinds of e-mails," and hopes to continue that career path.

"I'm moving much closer toward a daily talk show," he said, "which is a short-term dream. I play a number of different roles – but they all support each other as storytelling, humanity, morality, and well-being are at the center of everything I do."

And although his own coming out became a media event, he believes it's not an obligation for others.

"I think coming out is a personal journey and decision," he said. "Would it be a better world if everybody who was gay was open about it? Absolutely. But we still have a way to go." ▼



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NY woman dies of anthrax, new case pending

by Ellen Beck,
UPI Science Writer

An additional suspected case of cutaneous (skin) anthrax infection was discovered Wednesday, October 31 as FBI investigators poured through travel records and interviewed friends and co-workers of a New York hospital worker who became the fourth person to die from the inhaled form of the infection.

A second regional mail processing center in New Jersey was closed Wednesday after a 54-year-old man who operated a sorting machine tested positive for anthrax. The Bellmawr facility is about 35 miles from the Trenton regional center in Hamilton. Investigators were testing the Bellmawr plant for anthrax spores.

The Hamilton facility, which was closed after it tested positive for anthrax, is believed to have processed at least three pieces of mail containing anthrax — letters sent to NBC and the *New York Post* in New York and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) in Washington.

New York health officials said Kathy Nguyen, 61, of the Bronx, who had worked in the supply room of Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital died around 1:15 a.m. Wednesday. Officials said Nguyen, the fourth inhalation anthrax death in the nation, had lived alone, had no family in New York, and had been too ill to be able to provide investigators clues to where she might have come in contact with anthrax.

"As we speak, the FBI in New York and elsewhere is doing everything they can to find out the cause of this," White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said Wednesday morning. He said there would be an autopsy for a scientific analysis of the anthrax bacteria so that investigators could "compare that to the three other instances."

As part of her work duties, New York officials said, Nguyen accepted deliveries and assigned equipment, so almost everyone working in the hospital was in contact with her. The hospital remained closed and the staff was given antibiotics.

Gladys Geroge, president of Lenox Hill Hospital, the parent company of the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, said so far, 1,116 individuals have been placed on antibiotics as a precautionary measure. Up to 2,000 people may have to be treated in all.

"Usually with inhalation anthrax, the vast majority of people have had their exposure within a two-week period though theoretically, in the literature, exposure can occur in up to 60 days," said Dr. Neal Cohen, New York City health commissioner. "Up to 90 percent to 95 percent of the exposures occur within 14 days so we are looking at the people who entered building during that period and we're comfortable that it's the highest likelihood of exposure."

The woman did not handle mail but New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the basement room where she worked was near the mailroom. Ten of 40 environmen-

tal samples for anthrax came back negative and officials were waiting for the results of the remaining 30. Nguyen, an immigrant from Vietnam 24 years ago, worked in the hospital for about 10 years. Her home also was tested for anthrax and initial results were negative.

The FBI said some 4,000 FBI agents and 3,000 support personnel were actively working the anthrax cases and the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and near Washington. For health investigators, however, this first case of inhalation anthrax in New York — plus the cutaneous infection diagnosed in a Trenton, New Jersey bookkeeper — have changed the playing field because both individuals appear too far removed from known sources of anthrax spores to have contracted the disease.

Health officials had operated under the belief cross contamination of mail was very unlikely to cause anthrax infection in non-postal workers downstream because too few spores would be involved in such a transfer.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci of the National Institutes of Health said Tuesday officials were rethinking their opinions on cross contamination and how many anthrax spores were required for an anthrax infection. The number of spores required for inhalation infection has been pegged at between 5,000 and 10,000. Two Washington, D.C. postal workers died from inhalation infection, apparently from spores shed during mail processing of a letter sent to Daschle's Hart Office Building office.

Officials are also searching for a second letter at the House of Representatives. A spokesman for Representative Mike Pence (R-Indiana), whose office was one of three in the Longworth House Office Building found to be infected with anthrax, said they were informed by Capitol Hill Police Wednesday the office had "spores that numbered in the hundreds or thousands, much like the exposures in the Hart Office Building elevator."

Also dead from inhalation anthrax is a photo editor for American Media Inc., of Boca Raton, Florida, who was the first victim October 5. Investigators have found anthrax spores at the AMI building. About 900 AMI employees and visitors to its headquarters building, where the first anthrax was found, have undergone second blood tests. The results of those tests are still inconclusive.

In fact, there is no truly accurate way to screen for anthrax before it becomes an infection. Though a positive result does help investigators, especially when combined with information on spore sources, the Palm Beach County health director said blood tests and nasal swabs from employees have been of little use in diagnosing anthrax infections there.

If treatment is delayed, however, until the onset of symptoms — especially in the case of inhalation anthrax — it can be fatal. ▼

With additional reporting by Alex Cukan in Albany, New York, Frances Burns in Trenton, New Jersey, Les Kjos in Miami, and Mitch Prothero in Washington.

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #209



Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals interested in providing ombudsperson services to clients performing work assignments in the County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP) and/or Food Stamp Program, and to assist CAAP Triage Case Managers in providing outreach to clients involved in the Supplemental Security Income application process.

The contract period will run from 12/1/01, 6/30/02 for an approximate amount of \$28,000.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, October 26, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001, at 3:00 PM at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA. For further information, call Susan Schorr, Contract Manager, at (415) 557-5585 or Joseph Huang, Contract Manager at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Monday, November 26 at 5:00 PM.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 325123

In the Matter of the Application of Andrew Thomas Palmer For change of Name. The application of Andrew Thomas Palmer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Andrew Thomas Palmer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrew Zazu Thomas Palmer. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251996
The following person(s) are doing business as: 10th Avenue Laundromat, 700 10th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Yang, Xiong J. and Zhang John. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/2001.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540003

In the Matter of the Application of Tarek El. Sayed Abdel Aziz, for change of Name. The application of Tarek El. Sayed Abdel Aziz for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tarek El. Sayed Abdel Aziz has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Tarek El. Sayed Shehata. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 25, NOV. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251887
The following person(s) are doing business as: Games Etc. 1032 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed David N. Yuen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/27/01.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540012

In the Matter of the Application of Alexander Tal Ungar-Cammerman, for change of Name. The application of Alexander Tal Ungar-Cammerman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alexander Tal Ungar-Cammerman has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alexander Tal Reich-Hellawell. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of January, 2002; at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324699

In the Matter of the Application of Sean G. Ogilvie for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) for change of Name. The application of Sean G. Ogilvie for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sean G. Ogilvie (father) for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Emily Rose Ogilvie-Hodson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251958
The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Star Ink, 1271 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Margaret Crim and Raven A. Voss. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/01.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252432
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cuppa Coffee, 555 9th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Douglas Cox, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2001.

NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251936

The following person(s) are doing business as: Network Communications Inc. 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Charles M. Isola, Director of Finance. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/28/2001.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252060

The following person(s) are doing business as: Art Roofing Co. 830 Brazil Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Liu Rong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 4, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/04/2001.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 325149

In the Matter of the Application of John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) for change of Name. The application of John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Byron M.X. Huang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251871

The following person(s) are doing business as: Write Opportunity, 228 Day Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Karen D. Opp. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251988

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jim Misner Light Designs, 2988 Washington Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Misner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2001.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252141

The following person(s) are doing business as: Third Hand Store, 1839 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph Allen Dowler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/09/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252220

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cannery Wine Cellar, 2801 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ardebilchi, Kamran and Ardebilchi, Jahingir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/12/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Lam Dina, Lam Kin Bun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1936 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252214

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bay Leather, 2701 Taylor Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yoo, Woong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/12/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540013

In the Matter of the Application of Schomae, for change of Name. The application of Schomae for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Schomae has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Schomae Ofilinda. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of December at 9:30am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

The following person(s) are doing business as: California Dental. 6100 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Inessa Grinberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/09/2001. **OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252321
The following person(s) are doing business as: Silikon Valley Headhunter. 659 Mangels Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kfir Alfia and Amir Lehavot. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 17, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2001. **OCT. 25, NOV. 1, 8, 15, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252316
The following person(s) are doing business as: Kahn's Hibachi on West Portal. 361 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hnh Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2001. **OCT. 25, NOV. 1, 8, 15, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252397
The following person(s) are doing business as: A.W. Construction Co. 1269-45th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Addy Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/19/2001. **OCT. 25, NOV. 1, 8, 15, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252493
The following person(s) are doing business as: Media Melt. 1766 Union Street Suite D, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony J. Hartman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 24, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/24/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252486
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sibylite Productions. 159 Noe Street #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-1245. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ben Gardiner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 24, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/24/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252343
The following person(s) are doing business as: Asian American Food Co. 1426 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yao, Howard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/18/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251908
The following person(s) are doing business as: Eldolon. 1225 30th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Eric Snider and Katherine Snider. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 29, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252544
The following person(s) are doing business as: Planned Spaces. 741 Tehama Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gillian S. Ellenby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 25, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/25/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 252560**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tortuga Labs. 1329 York Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Arturo Meuniot III. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/26/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252393

The following person(s) are doing business as: Junkyard Books. 4173 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Elena F. Plass and Shay L. Alderman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/19/2001. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 250191

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Moda Photographic Studios. Located at: 1524 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 11, 2001. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership signed: John M. Dyson and Dante Nassi. **NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

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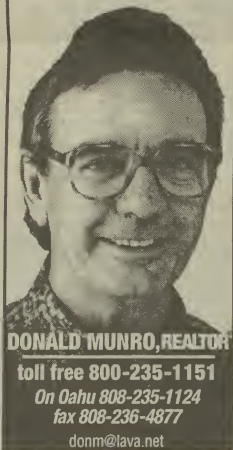
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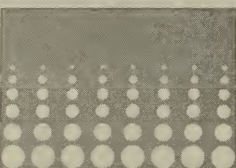
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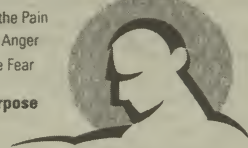
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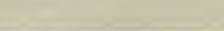
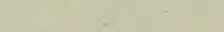
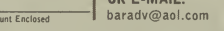
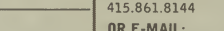
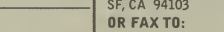
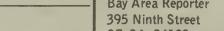
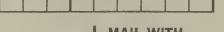
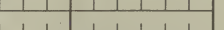
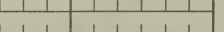
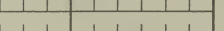
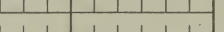
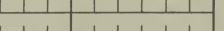
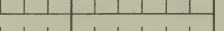
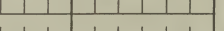
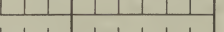
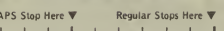
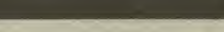
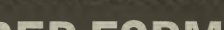
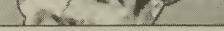
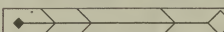
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Surviving the great depression
Andrew Solomon tackles the Big D in 'The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression.'
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Gideon's trumpet
Bible lessons and back-up singers in 'Last Session.'
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Twisted sisters
Outlaw filmmakers in Yerba Buena premieres.
page 44



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 44 • 1 November 2001

'My Son Divine' is a fond cradle-to-grave remembrance

The little sissy who could

by Matthew Kennedy

Divine has been dead for 13 years, and let's face it, his film legacy is skimpy. With his 300 pounds forever squeezed into one or another fashion debacle, he should be tiresome by now. Why, then, do periodic visits to his vaults bring pleasure? Was there some underlying star quality that may be revealed with a peek at his early years? Now you can find out with *My Son Divine* by Frances Milstead, whose relationship to the book's subject is evident in the title.

This is not a book for anyone looking to savor the Divine mystique. His trademark humor is in short supply on these pages. *My Son Divine* is, rather, a mother's account of her unusual son, born Harris Glenn Milstead on October 19, 1945 in (where else?) Baltimore.

Through her we see her only child grow from healthy baby to choirboy, later retreating for fear of family rejection, and finally enjoying his career and the unconditional love of his parents. Unconditional is right — mother claims to enjoy *Female Trouble* (1974), though one suspects for different reasons than most others who have ever gazed upon the cautionary saga of Dawn Davenport.

When Glenn was still a child, Frances noticed he showed little or no interest in sports, but

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My Son Divine by Frances Milstead, with Kevin Heffernan and Steve Yeager; Alyson Books, \$18.95



Lawrence Irvine



Marlene Dietrich as Lola Lola in *The Blue Angel*

She can't help it

New print of 'The Blue Angel' at Castro

by Tavo Amador

The tragedy of destructive obsessions has rarely been as heart-breakingly portrayed as in Josef von Sternberg's *The Blue Angel* (1930), which plays the Castro Theatre in a new print, November 2-7. Famous for making Marlene Dietrich an international star, the movie is more than a showcase for her remarkable abilities. It's based on Heinrich Mann's novel — his younger brother, Thomas, also wrote a novel about destructive obsessions, *Death in Venice*.

Emil Jannings, the first Best Actor Academy Award-winner for *The Last*

Command and *The Way of All Flesh* (1927-28), is the picture's star. He plays middle-aged professor Immanuel Rath, teaching at a boys school in a small German town in 1925. As such, he has status — his neighbors address him as "Herr Doktor" — but his life is numbingly routine. Other than his students, colleagues, and housekeeper, his only companion is a parakeet, which dies one morning.

When he finds postcards for a seedy nightclub called The Blue Angel that some of his charges have been visiting,

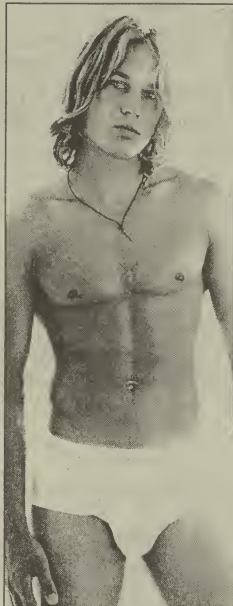
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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman,
Adrian Roberts and
Jack E. Shortz

Just as the 1960s as we think of them did not really start until the Beatles arrived Stateside in '64, the '70s actually began with Nixon's resignation in '74, and the '90s formally kicked off with Clinton's election in '92, we now know that the '00s (the Naughties?) did not begin in earnest until 9/11/01. What formerly was **In** (celebrities, materialism, technology, decadence) is now **Out**; what previously was **Out** (hoarding food and potable water) is now **In**.

In such circumstances, it would seem totally irrelevant to promote the live, in-store appearance of an underwear model at Macy's, yet that is just exactly what **Out There** is about to do. We know the eyeballs of many of our readers popped out of their sockets when that recent double-page ad spread in the morning paper revealed beefy male model **Travis** in nothing but his new **Calvin Klein** "body" briefs. Your chance to meet the 6-foot-tall, 19-year-old **Travis** in person comes next Saturday, November 10, 3 p.m. in the Men's Store at Macy's Union Square. "Travis doesn't consider



New Calvin Klein model Travis

himself a model *per se*," insists the press kit. "He's a regular guy who grew up on a farm in Australia

and just happens to model." Oh, thanks for clearing that up.

Though neither one has ever modeled underwear professionally, Christian TV personality and minister **Tammy Faye** will appear live with filmmaker **John Waters** at the Castro Theatre next Thursday, Nov. 8, in a one-of-a-kind event that should have considerable camp value. Tammy will be singing numbers from a one-woman show that's still a work-in-progress. "It's something I've never done before, even though I did TV for 30 years," she said when we caught her by phone. "I've been asked to do a show in NY, and I never felt like I could. I mean, I don't have a dirty mouth, I'm not a comedian, and I don't like to bore people." Finally, she was convinced to "just go ahead and be yourself!"

Tammy will be essaying five or six songs, which she promises will include the immortal "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and the patriotic three-hankie "America the Beautiful." "Yeah, you lucky guys in SF: you're going to get my first time!" she enthused. Out There assured her that we've heard that before.

Conversation turned to recent tragic events, specifically funda-



Tammy Faye will just be herself at the Castro Theatre next Thursday.

mentalist **Christian Jerry Falwell** blaming gays and feminists for the heinous attacks. "Oh, that was awful, I can't believe he could say anything like that," Tammy Faye said. "Jerry Falwell is a jackass, but **Jesus** used a jackass into Jerusalem!"

"I still believe the message of the Bible is love. I worry about people who say they

walk with God, but you can't do it without love.

"Sept. 11 made a different person out of me," claimed Tammy. "I realized I had to get up and get out, help people through this, because I've been through so much. I can say no matter what you've gone through in life, have the courage to go on."

Tammy Faye has never been to the Castro Theatre, but she has heard reports of its big pipe organ. "I'm afraid my fingers will get so itchy I might have to play it!"

For his own part, John "Pecker" Waters will be talking about his illustrious career. For Tammy, who has never met Waters nor seen any of his films, this should be a real eye-opener. We expect she won't stint on the mascara. Tickets are \$15-\$75, which seems to us a bit steep for the front rows of the Castro. Call (866) 468-3399.

Hipper than thou

It was a veritable **Who's Who** of queer hipsters at the sold-out Great American Music Hall last Thursday, with people who haven't been seen since the late '90s crawling out of the woodwork for a Very Special Night. The event? None other than the triumphant one-night-only return of ex-San Francisco cabaret duo **Kiki & Herb**, aka drag performer **Justin Bond** and pianist **Kenny Mellman**.

And what a homecoming it was! Coming off a three-week run of shows in LA, the duo showed why they've been the toast of the New York City club circuit ever since they relocated there a few years ago. Technically a cabaret act (a singer and a pianist), Kiki & Herb go far beyond that, having more in common with punk-inspired performance art than anything you'd see in a piano lounge. The campy duo skewered arena-rock anthems by **Styx**, **Pink Floyd**, **Journey**, and **REO Speedwagon**, mixing them with more obscure gems by **Radiohead**, **Pulp**, the **Geraldine Fibbers**, and **Butt Trumpet**. It was like an indie-hipster *Name That Tune*.

Who else could turn "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" into a dark, heartfelt torch song, then morph it into **Nirvana's** "Smells Like Teen Spirit"? Brilliant.

As always, Kiki had quite a bit to say, and the show was peppered with some very funny, very un-P.C. terrorist jokes. On strapping a bomb to herself and blowing up the audience, she quipped, "Then people could say that cabaret truly is a dead art."

One of the evening's highlights was an extended monologue that both roasted and paid homage to local tranny **Bambi Lake**, who landed in jail a few years ago when

Tammy Faye John Waters



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THEATRE

A slut is born

Marga Gomez is Cochina at Theatre Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Marga Gomez has created a new show for the holidays, but you might want to think twice about taking Granny. "I could see people walking out," Gomez said of *The Twelve Days of Cochina*, opening Nov. 10 at Theatre Rhino. "I think it's cute and funny, but then again, this could be really hardcore. But because I'm not having sex, it feels OK to talk like a porn star."

It was, she said, an extended sexual dry spell that prompted her to create the story of Latina lesbian who starts out as an "abstinence activist" and eventually becomes "the biggest pansexual whore in history."

Gomez, now a Brooklynite, launched her career in San Francisco in the 1980s as a standup comic, before growing into autobiographical one-woman shows. She was last at Theatre Rhino in 1999 with *jaywalker*, a satirical account of her stab at a Hollywood career.

But unlike her previous creations, *Cochina* centers on a fictional character whose name is a Spanish pejorative for a slutish woman. "It was one of those words you heard growing up Latina," Gomez said. "You could be a *maricon*, which is lesbian, but don't be a *maricon cochina*."

The show opens with Cochina testifying before the House Committee on Unsexual Activities on the dangers of sexual desire. "To illustrate her point," Gomez said, "she begins talking about her life, going back to her childhood when she's given one repressive message after another. They're mainly from her embittered aunt, who visits every Christmas with horrible stories related to sex."

Congress likes what it hears, and funds her faith-based charity designed to stamp out sex. At this point, the story begins to parallel *A Christmas Carol*, as Cochina becomes a sexual Scrooge who finally learns the error of her ways.

Gomez is hoping the show becomes "a dirty classic," and figures it will be relevant "as long as we have a Religious Right-influenced Administration in power."

It is a fictional tale, but she said, "it definitely expresses my take on sexual repression. Even though I'm a big professional horny lesbian, I still have the core of a 7-year-old girl being browbeaten into thinking that sex is wrong. I'm definitely using the pains and joys of my life to fuel the plot."

The Twelve Days of Cochina, directed by Doug Holsclaw, will run through Dec. 9. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

'Snake' bite

Brad Fraser is a gay Canadian playwright with a proven ability to shock.

He admits on his website that he's "often accused of being intentionally shocking and courting controversy for its own sake. While I have never denied the more sensational aspects of my work, I have always maintained that my real objective is to create theater that honestly and accu-



Gomez hopes her new show becomes "a dirty classic" for the holidays.

rately reflects the world we live in."

San Francisco audiences got their first look at a Fraser play in 1995, when *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love* was produced at the Magic Theatre. This play about a serial killer in the age of AIDS was followed last year at New Conservatory Theatre Center by *Martin Yesterday*, his play about a sexually predatory gay politician with HIV. Now the Actors Theatre of San Francisco is offering the US premiere of *Snake in Fridge* this weekend.

Fraser's newest play, seen last year at the Royal Exchange Theatre in London, has been described as *The Amityville Horror* meets *Boogie Nights*. "It's set in an old Victorian house shared by a group of six misfit friends who like to party and do drugs, but who must also deal with fear that there is a murderer in their midst."

"I wanted to write something that was really going on in the clubs and on the streets with the kids I was seeing, and to explore the poetry and profanity they use," Fraser told a Canadian newspaper earlier this year. "I did want to push it over the top."

Christian Phillips is directing the Actors Theatre production of *Snake in Fridge*, running through Dec. 14. Call 296-9179 for more info.

NCTC activities

These are busy times at the three-theater New Conservatory Theatre Center, where its Pride season officially got underway last week with *The Last Session*.

The second play in the series is now in previews, while the In Concert series begins a new season this weekend. On top of all that, playwright Terrence McNally will turn up on Nov. 5 for an onstage interview.

The Crumple Zone is the second Pride season play, officially opening on Nov. 10. Buddy Thomas' comedy, seen off-Broadway last year, is set in a run-down New York apartment where three gay roommates deal with various romantic imbrolios. Stephen

Rupsch directs the West Coast premiere.

Tapestry launches NCTC's third In Concert season of simply staged musicals on Nov. 3. Earl D. Weaver is directing the revue of Carole King songs that include "You've Got a Friend," "Natural Woman," and "Up on the Roof."

Finally, after postponing a June appearance, Terrence McNally will have his onstage conversation with Jonathan Katz at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5. Later this season, NCTC will present McNally's *The Ritz*.

For more information on any of the above events, call 861-8972.

Short scenes

Density Over Duration Productions, which describes itself as "small but scrappy," is presenting Christopher Durang's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* at the BUILD Performance Space. Performances continue through Nov. 17. Call 648-3091.

First Seen is offering the world premiere of Brad Erickson's *Public Lives*, beginning Nov. 9 at Venue 9. Set during the presidential campaign of 1992, the play looks at two couples — one gay, one straight — who are torn apart by love, career, and politics. Call 289-2000.

Caryl Churchill's seldom-staged *Vinegar Tom*, a modernist play about the English witchhunt trials of the 1600s, opens Nov. 9 at Shotwell Studios. The Custom Made Theatre Company is the presenter. Call 262-0477.

Gay playwright Robert O'Hara is directing his play *Brave Blood* as the second production at the brand-new Transparent Theatre of Berkeley. Opening Nov. 10, this look at a psychiatrist who takes in a group of prostitutes is part of a trilogy that began with *Insurrection: Holding History*. Call (510) 833-0305.

Eriny's Productions is reviving Claire Chafee's *Why We Have a Body* beginning Nov. 1 in the Theatre Rhino Studio. First seen at the Magic Theatre, Chafee's play profiles four "outsider" women, each on a search for her place in society. Call 861-5079. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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The Blue Angel

◀ Arts cover

he decides to investigate. There he meets singer Lola Lola (Dietrich), and before he knows what has happened, he is smitten by her rather crude charms and insouciance. She represents a casual, unconventional world that is new to him. Lola seems fond of him and is amazed when he defends her honor. After spending the night, he, a proper bourgeois, offers marriage. She laughs uproariously, not at his emotions, but at how ill-suited she is for him. Yet, absolving herself for responsibility over his feelings, she accepts. After all, she doesn't get many marriage proposals from upstanding citizens.

This liaison costs the professor his job. When he learns that postcards of Lola in revealing costumes are sold at the club, he says that as long as he has one penny, that practice will stop. Lola, bemused, shrugs, but says they had better save the postcards. Some

time later, he is seen peddling the cards to customers as Lola and her fellow performers take their act to various provincial German towns.

Laugh, clown, laugh

Several years later, Professor Rath has been reduced to playing a clown in support of the magician/troupe manager, Kiepert (Kurt Gerron). Lola treats him kindly, but without respect. When Kiepert books a return engagement at The Blue Angel and says that Rath's name will be prominently advertised on posters, the professor refuses to play the clown in front of his old colleagues, neighbors, and students. Lola ensures he does. While he is being humiliated on stage before a full audience, she is in the wings, embracing Mazeppa, "The Strong Man," yet is simultaneously fascinated by her husband's public degradation. In a climactic moment, an enraged Rath nearly strangles Lola to death. Later that night, he returns to his old classroom, sits at his desk, and dies.

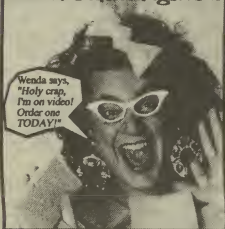
Jannings plays Rath with a naturalistic restraint and dignity that are touching. He refrains from the scenery-chewing so typical of the era's acting style. (Imagine the meal Lionel Barrymore would have made of the role!) As his humiliation grows, so does the audience's sympathy for him. The contrast in the way he handles his cloak at the beginning of the movie and at the end, when he makes his final trip to his old school, is illuminating and touching. The last shot of him gripping his desk, trying to regain the life he exchanged for the unrepentant Lola, is wrenching.

Dietrich's Lola was a new femme fatale. She does not intend to hurt anyone, but if that happens, it's not her fault. When she sings "Falling In Love Again,"



Marlene Dietrich's Lola Lola was a new kind of femme fatale. Right, Kurt Gerron as Kiepert the Magician.

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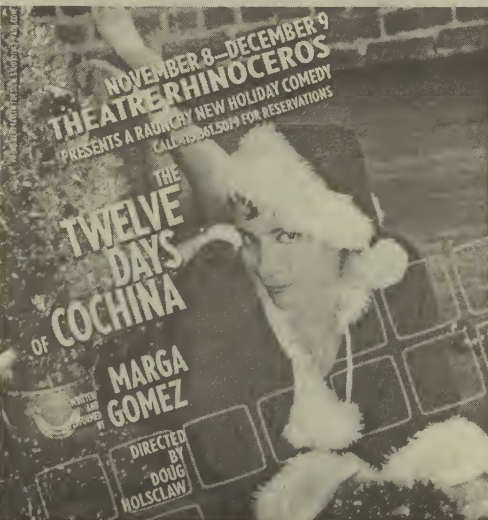


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which would be forever associated with her, she absolves herself of all responsibility. "Men gather 'round me, like moths around a flame/ And if their wings burn, I know I'm not to blame/ Falling in love again/ Never wanted to/ What am I to do?/ I can't help it."

This is not the Hollywood Dietrich, that slinky, blonde, stylized image of slightly *déclassé* glamour that she and von Sternberg created starting with their first Paramount picture, *Morocco*, released in America shortly before *The Blue Angel*. Her Lola Lola is plump and coarse, although the striking face that would become an icon is visible beneath her light brown hair. The famous legs are on display, but casually, with no self-consciousness. This seeming spontaneity is an illusion — she did exactly what von Sternberg told her to do throughout the filming. She would never again seem so unstudied on the screen, although she would give many memorable performances.

Also shown in this program is Dietrich's screen test for the film. She sings a few bars from "You're the Cream in my Coffee," her audition song. Years later, in her nightclub act, Dietrich lied about her discovery, saying she was "a student in a theatre school," when, in fact, she was 29 years old, had made numerous films, and had extensive stage and nightclub experience. Credit must be given to von Sternberg for seeing something in the test no one else had ever noticed — and then making the world embrace his vision as well. ▼

Castro Theatre info: 621-6120

BOOKS

Deep doo-doo

by Robert Julian

I, Toto: The Autobiography of Terry, The Dog Who Was Toto by Willard Carroll; Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, \$19.95



Friends of Dorothy may want to make note of the latest addition to the *Wizard of Oz* literary oeuvre. It arrives in the form of a faux autobiography of Terry, the canine performer who played Toto in the Judy Garland film. Author Willard Carroll, a devout collector of *Wizard of Oz* memorabilia, has done his homework. *I, Toto* is carefully researched, and it includes the entire filmography of Terry the Cairn Terrier, as well as supplemental information on his trainer, Carl Spitz, who owned a kennel of performing canines.

Willard's book begins with a brief mystery, in which the author sets off in search of Terry's resting place and ends up interviewing the widow of Carl Spitz. He also stumbles upon buried treasure in the form of a tin box containing Terry's memoirs, which the dog maintained in scrapbook form. Willard's book is filled with publicity stills and related memorabilia (allegedly culled from the carefully maintained scrapbook) regarding Terry's participation in *The Wizard of Oz* and 13 other motion pictures.

The first-person (or first-canine) narrative of the autobiography is self-consciously cute, and inexplicably rendered in very small print, making it equally difficult for adults and children to read. Terry is revealed as a sweetheart, who took her career seriously. Unfortunately, Willard's fact-filled prose is rather dense, making it difficult reading for children. And the book's idiosyncratic subject matter makes it interesting for only the most devout adult fans of the 1939 Judy Garland triumph. In short, there is little or no audience for this book. Yet for sheer originality of concept, this trifle is unlikely to be topped by any other 2001 release. ▼

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FILM

Divine as the filthy Babs Johnson in cult classic *Pink Flamingos* (1972).

Midnight favorites

On DVD: 'Pink Flamingos,' 'Female Trouble'

by Matthew Kennedy

Marion Davies was not Susan Alexander. And Divine was not a drag queen. These two vital bits of information come to you in the recent DVD releases of *Citizen Kane* and *Pink Flamingos*, the *Citizen Kane* of dog-shit movies. If the two inspire extreme high-brow/low-brow comparisons, consider that both Davies and Divine were under the guidance of men who, for better or worse, defined their careers. Both are now posthumously declared talented souls who suffered from mismanagement and bad timing. If only Davies had stepped out from Hearst's shadow, and if only Divine had had more options beyond John Waters.

Take *Pink Flamingos* —

please. Waters sets about shattering one taboo after another — chicken-fucking, cock-sucking, asshole-singing, and shit-eating. And what do you know, after *Pink Flamingos*, they all went right back to being taboo. The early '70s didn't set any lasting trends. It stands apart in movie history, wedged between the death rattle of the old studio system and the takeover of *Jaws* and *Star Wars*-style comic book crowd-pleasers. *Pink Flamingos* was surrounded by other noteworthy envelope-pushers that defined a short era of sexual candor. There was *Deep Throat*, bringing oral sex to cocktail party conversations throughout America. Among mainstream movies, *Klute* featured a potty-talking, topless Jane Fonda. Key scenes in *Last Tango in Paris* and *Don't Look Now* stopped just short of

hardcore.

The continued ability of *Pink Flamingos* to shock suggests a retreat from overt subversion. Maybe renegade filmmakers needed the disillusionment of Vietnam and Watergate for sustenance. Sure, movies still make references to shit, incest, skidmarks, and any other human defilement, but today they're safely encased in the big-budget teen-marketed comedy. And nobody would dare unleash another Edith Massey on the world, though Tony Richardson gave us a close antecedent with Mrs. Joy-boy in 1965's *The Loved One*.

Waters wasn't just a vomit-monger. Money was never an issue — he didn't have any — so he was free to indulge his whims without corporate interference. He took his inspiration

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My Son Divine

◀ Arts cover

instead gravitated toward stuffed animals. In time, he exhibited a desire to be every cliché in the book — florist, hair stylist, and interior decorator. Surely the gay panic alarms were flashing in the Milstead home when Glenn developed obsessions with Marilyn Monroe and, in particular, Elizabeth Taylor. He gained weight, avoided gym class, and loved being in school plays. He was the object of the bully's attention, and regularly came home with bruises and swollen lips. What more evidence is needed of the boy's divinity?

Cool Waters

Soon he turned away from the interests of respectable young homosexuals and met with John Waters, Baltimore's reigning queen of underground movies. The Divine persona was created, and by the late '60s, Glenn was in such no-budget sagas as *Roman Candles*, *Eat Your Makeup*, *Multiple Maniacs*, and *Mondo Trasho*. Then came *Pink Flamingos* (1972). All of Divine's wicked and self-possessed screen presence as filthy Babs Johnson is forgotten the moment he eats a steaming dog turd. Ever the uncomplaining trouper, Divine said he did it because it was in the script. "It's a first, and it's a last in cinema history," said Waters. "There's no law against it, because no one's ever going to do it again. It's not even in the Bible."

Another early Waters effort, *Female Trouble*, showcases Divine more respectfully, as Dawn Davenport evolves from juvenile delinquent to death-row harpy, with ample tributes to scrappy gals Susan Hayward, Ida Lupino, and Gloria Grahame along the way. Divine loved playing multiple characters in a single movie, and one can marvel at his ability, in a remarkable scene in *Female Trouble*, to rape him/herself.

Boosted by disco singles "Born to Be Cheap" and "Shoot Your Shot," Divine had a thriving cabaret career, especially in Europe. Audiences ate up his gelatinous interpretations of dance crazes such as the Dirty Boogie, the Pony, and the Bodie Green, accompanied by lyrics like, "You wimp! You wimp, Who you callin' a blimp? I ain't your Aunt Jemi-

ma, and honey, you ain't my pimp." Ever the professional, Divine always gave large and small crowds a good show.

In time, he stopped looking like Elizabeth Taylor in the Richard Burton years and started looking like Totie Fields in the Ed Sullivan years. By then, his comic skills were put to good use in *Polyester* (1981), Waters' first big-budget crossover movie. That led to *Lust in the Dust* (1985), featuring an unforgettable catfight between Divine's spitfire saloon-girl Rosie Velez and Lainie Kazan's madame Marguerita Ventura. Then came *Hairspray* (1988), where he was positively inspired as Edna Turnblad, long-suffering Baltimore housewife turned business manager for her dancing daughter, played by a pre-makeover Ricki Lake. The promise of more was there — Divine was being readied for a regular spot on *Married With Children* when the end came. He died in his sleep of a heart attack, just days after *Hairspray* opened to ecstatic reviews.

Fancy free

My Son Divine has a somewhat schizoid quality. When covering Glenn's early years, it reads like a mother's fond remembrances. During the years of estrangement, the book takes on the tone of a sociological critique, with a cursory examination of drag, Waters, and gay liberation. One suspects this is where co-contributors Kevin Hefernan and Steve Yeager stepped in. The two have fine credentials, most notably as the makers of *Divine Trash*, the smart 1998 documentary on the early career of John Waters. Then Mother comes back, using spare, friendly, and conversational style. Frances and others overstress that Divine was an uncommonly sweet man, albeit cursed with an inordinate interest in marijuana and fancy clothes. You can almost hear her talking from across a Formica breakfast table somewhere in suburban Baltimore, coffee and cigarettes at the ready.

There was always a little something extra to Divine, and I'm not talking girth. The husky voice, the delivery, the winking humor, and the sly references to acting conventions gone by all suggested a bona fide *artiste*, not just a painted gorgon. While others around him in *Pink Flamingos*, *Female Trouble* and even the more palatable *Polyester* were strange,

puerile, or demented, he rose to a higher calling. Any glance at the early John Waters movies will reveal just how much they rely on Divine to sustain our interest. To his everlasting credit, he didn't overstay his welcome, and he never sank into self-parody. He made fun, all right, but it was always on his terms. Thank you lord, we have been spared the sight of Divine occupying center square, singing a mawkish ballad on behalf of New York firefighters, or essaying Mama Rose in *Gypsy*.

At his most heroic, Harris Glenn Milstead could be seen as a freedom fighter, emancipating baby queers everywhere. His means to liberation was satire. Immediately beneath the grotesque impersonation was a devastatingly good send-up of the obscenities of American consumerism. With big hair, make-up, and attitude, Divine was the nightmare result of too many trips to the mall. His was a subversive humor, void of polemics, but rich in observation.

John Waters gets the last line: "Divine was a dear friend and my star. He was my Elizabeth Taylor. I could never replace him, and I would never try. I never thought of Divine as a female impersonator. I thought of him as a great character actor who started his career playing a homicidal maniac and ended it playing a loving mother. Which is a pretty good stretch, especially when you're a 300-pound man. Divine and I will be linked together forever, and I'm glad of that." ▼

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Cutting a record
'The Last Session' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

With a plot about an ailing man planning his suicide, song lyrics about IV drips and AZT side effects, and a Bible-quoting character trying to save a homosexual sinner, *The Last Session* might not sound like an enjoyable night at the theater. Surprisingly enough, it often is.

This Los Angeles-bred musical is belatedly having its San Francisco premiere at New Conservatory Theatre Center following runs in several other cities. This is the kind of show that is easy to warm up to — it has even been successfully staged in Omaha — despite the fact that its specific ingredients can be clumsy or cliché. The creators obviously recognize wherein lie an audience's comfort zone, and director Dan Kryston and his attractive cast are able to reflect that in this handsome production.

The musical is set in a recording studio (well designed by Rob Vogt) where a once-celebrated singer-songwriter has returned after a long hiatus to record a collection of personal songs for his unseen lover on the night before he plans to kill himself. The drug cocktails are no longer working, Gideon explains to the lovably cranky recording engineer, and he's tired of the fight.

For this last session, Gideon has invited his favorite backup singers, who don't know about his plans. The diva-like Tryshia and the party-hearty Vicki are old rivals, which provides a forum for a steady stream of comic-relief bitchiness. But in the place of the expected third backup singer, a hunky Texan with a hefty drawl turns up with a

Bible and a demo tape.

Buddy has admired Gideon for years, from those early days writing hymns when he was known as the Baptist Barry Manilow. Buddy is hoping Gideon will help him break into the big time, but when he learns that Gideon is gay, he sets out to save his idol from eternal damnation.

Jim Brochu's script manages to keep the tone mostly lighthearted, with occasional (and sometimes overboard) ventures into pathos. The story is obliquely punctuated with the songs Gideon is recording, songs that relate to his journey through illness rather than the immediate story unfolding around him. The music by Steve Schachlin is often inviting in a pop-anthem way, but the lyrics (based on his own HIV experiences) can become prosaic in their specificity.

The NCTC cast rises musically to the challenges of the soaring score, while finding mostly broad-stroke connections to their characters. But as Gideon, George Quick finds a realistic basis for his conflicted character that helps anchor a production otherwise mostly populated by caricatures.



George Quick as Gideon

Shirley Smallwood as Tryshia, Michelle Starrs as Vicki, and Joe Settineri as Buddy are all engaging, even if they don't convince us that they are inhabiting flesh-and-blood creations. Randel Hart as the engineer, usually off stage in the control booth, does get off some effectively caustic one-liners.

The Last Session is a musical with a big heart that it sometimes wears on its sleeve. But the bottom line is a feel-good experience that hits a particularly welcome note in these strange and difficult times. ▼

The Last Session will run through Dec. 9 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.

The cast of *Brave Smiles* mocks unhappy endings for lesbians.Sapphic desires
'Brave Smiles' at Il Teatro

by Richard Dodds

There is no doubt that the best way to see a Five Lesbian Brothers play is performed by the Five Lesbian Brothers. After all, the women of this notable troupe created the characters around their own quirks, talents, and sensibilities.

But the Brothers are on perhaps permanent hiatus from performing together, so the only way currently to see what they wrought in their decade together is through the prisms of other performers. Perhaps some can find a way to happily refract the Lesbian Brothers' humor in their own terms, but this is seldom the case in the production of *Brave Smiles* on view at Il Teatro 450.

While some of the five women in the cast have recently been seen on local stages to positive effect, and each has a least a few moments when there is a click with the character, they just don't possess the right clowning skills to put across this satire on lesbian stereotypes from plays and movies.

Nor has director Arturo Catri-cala found a way to clarify the satire and punch up the humor, leaving a production that can be murky as it follows five school chums from a girl's school in Germany in the 1920s to Southampton in the 1970s. Along the way, their Sapphic desires inevitably result in tragedy, mocking the unhappy ends that have usually awaited lesbians in mainstream entertainment.

But that joke is weakly conveyed, further undercut by a physical production unable to find an imaginative expression of its sparseness. To be fair, the cast made up of Onico Edain, Jacqueline Ivens, Connie L. Noble, Megan Towle, and Heidi Wolff played a recent Sunday matinee to an audience of seven, which made it hard to develop much comic traction. Even so, a few brave smiles were about all this production could elicit. ▼

Brave Smiles will run at Il Teatro 450 through Nov. 25. Tickets are \$18 & \$20. Call 433-1172.

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Taking 'Tosca' to task

Puccini's 'shabby little shocker' at the War Memorial Opera House

by Stephanie von Buchau

Naïve as it sounds, especially for someone who has the reputation of being a tough old opera bird, every time the curtain goes up, I get a thrill of anticipation. Even if I am not impressed in advance by the quality of singers and conductor, I still hope for that infrequent operatic miracle. Last Tuesday night at the War Memorial Opera House, I had reason to anticipate the best. A new soprano and conductor, familiar tenor and baritone in Puccini's "shabby little shocker?" What's not to like?

It's true that this production of *Tosca*, modeled after the one that opened the War Memorial in 1932, was reconstructed by Thierry Bosquet, who, for some reason that eludes me, is a favorite of Lotfi Mansouri. Bosquet was responsible for that watercolor *Louise* (after Utrillo) and drab *Der Rosenkavalier* (after Roller), other "reconstructions" that he can blame on the original designers.

His *Tosca* sets are so dreary and recessive that not even Thomas Munn, usually my favorite lighting designer, can make the stage pictures attractive or even visible. Consequently, the Act II drama was seriously compromised. From my vantage point on the left side, I never saw Tosca pick up the fatal weapon from a table lodged behind the settee. She stabbed Scarpia, and then, as she stood back from him hissing "Die, die!" like Vincent Price hawking electronic bug-zappers, Scarpia pulled an object from his chest and threw it across the room.

Oops, I thought. That was the knife. What is Tosca going to do when the music signals that she should drop the bloody weapon? (Yes, the music does. It's on the chord under "Or gli per-DO-no.") For years I've credited Mansouri as being the only stage director to hear what Puccini clearly intended.) Well, in the gathering gloom, Tosca sang, "Now I for-GIVE him" and dropped a knife! But what knife? Were there two knives? Or was what Scarpia threw not a knife? How could you tell when the stage was so dim, and the staging even dimmer?

By that point I had lost interest in these provincial proceedings. This is a *Tosca* that might

wow them in Tulsa, Tallahassee or San Diego; it is not a *Tosca* that should be presented at \$165 a ticket in what is supposed to be a major international opera house. The new diva, Eva Urbanová, for whom I had such high hopes — she's certainly imperious on her many Czech recordings — proved inadequate. One has no way of knowing how much an unhelpful conductor and cliché-prone stage director (Sandra Bernhard touched up Mansouri's original production) had to do with Urbanová's erratic vocalism and unprepossessing stage presence.

Dress dish

I also suspect that the costumes, designed in 1997 by Bosquet for tall, thin Carol Vaness, added to Urbanová's malaise. She is shorter than Vaness and well-upholstered, though not fat. Her Act I dress looked okay, though white is not a flattering color to any operatic diva, even one as anorexic as Vaness. The third-act traveling costume may have been historically accurate, but it made the diva look like a three-tiered, olive-drab wedding cake. As for the tomato-red ball gown of Act II, I would have burned the dress before appearing on stage in such an unflattering cut and color.

Urbanová is a sharp-featured lady, rather like Birgit Nilsson, of whom she reminded me in Act I, when she still had some confidence. Her soprano is clear and powerful, though very cool. Her technique seemed strong. She drew out the line attractively and sang the love music softly. I had great hopes for her Italian phrasing after "Dio mi perdona." But in the offstage cantata she was so out of tune that it didn't sound like the same voice. She never recovered, following one gorgeous phrase with a chopped or swallowed one in "Vissi d'arte," and slowly crumpling physically.

Since the Scarpia (Franz Grundheber) and Cavaradossi (Richard Leech) also had tempo and phrasing problems — Grundheber and the conductor never got together for the opening of Act II — I'm inclined to blame the poor ensemble on Paolo Carignani, the pit debutant. He has an impressive résumé, and the orchestra played fabulously for him in the atmospheric opening to Act III, with its beautiful offstage bells. But as an

accompanist, to put it bluntly, he sucked. He couldn't follow and he wouldn't lead, leaving the singers to their own inadequate devices.

Grundheber made an honorable attempt to follow a long line of non-Italian Scarpias who have excited me in the past. I used to say that I'd never heard a Scarpia in San Francisco I didn't want to chase me around the furniture in the Palazzo Farnese, until I heard my first Italian one — Giuseppe Taddei, way past his prime in 1978. Grundheber was an endearing Mandryka and a noble Amfortas, but he is too short of stature and too soft of timbre to make a thrilling villain. There were times when I literally could not hear him over the din Carignani was creating in the pit.

Is it possible that the seismic retrofit altered the downstairs acoustics after all? I simply do not remember being as unable to hear singers as in the last four years. (And it is not my ears; my informants around the house report the same thing.) Are conductors getting more arrogant and out of control? (Or do they simply refuse to go out in the house to listen for balances?) Or are the singers so busy polishing their money notes that they have neglected the rest of their voices?

And why shouldn't they, when it pays off with an ignorant audience? I heard several people swooning over Leech's stentorian high notes, which are impressive,



Eva Urbanová as Floria Tosca in San Francisco Opera's *Tosca*.

but not if they arrive at the expense of a singing line and endless breath, neither of which he commands these days. ▼

SF Opera's *Tosca* continues in repertory through Nov. 11. Tickets (\$23-\$165): call (415) 864-3330.

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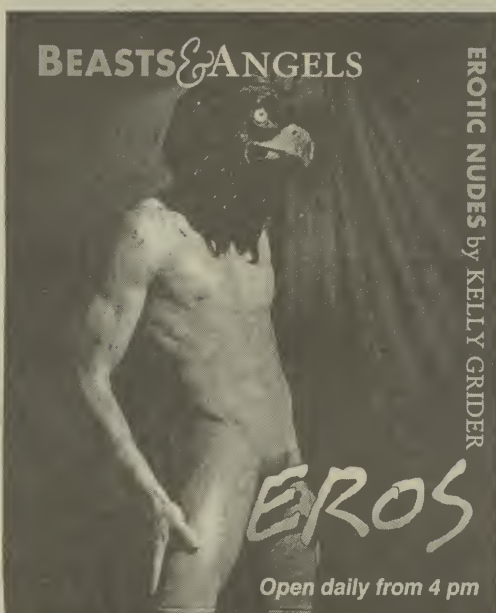
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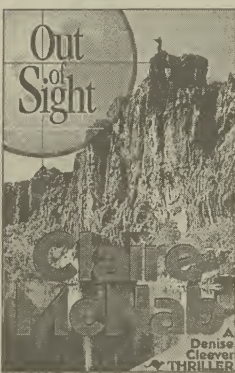
The mysteries of global terrorism

McNab's 'Out of Sight' goes undercover

by Deborah Peifer

Two new mysteries this week, each entirely different from the other in setting and style, each similar in excellence.

I have to wonder if Claire McNab is psychic — or did she write her latest Denise Cleever thriller (and get it published) sometime this morning? McNab can be counted on to weave contemporary events skillfully into the fabric of her narrative, but in *Out of Sight* (Naia, \$12.95), her



mastery of current events is exceptional. Denise Cleever, an agent for the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), goes undercover to infiltrate a terrorist training camp (yes, like the ones we're bombing right now) run by the top-secret group Edification. She wants to destroy the organization, which delights in teaching would-be mass murder-

ers simple and advanced bomb construction, kidnapping, the use of biological and chemical weapons, and, my favorite, strategies to panic the public.

It is in the panic class that Denise learns "that in the general public's case, it is fear of the attack that is most potent, and that there were a few words that could ignite unthinking terror. These words included *plutonium*, *anthrax*, and *bubonic plague*, especially if the last were called *Black Death*." Does this not sound like the last few weeks in our happy land? McNab captures the mindset of the terrorists with chilling accuracy. She creates terrifying and believable characters for whom the idea of, say, murdering thousands of humans to protest animal experiments makes perfect sense. *Out of Sight* is a creepy look at the kinds of people with whom, I believe, we are currently at war. It's a thriller that roars off the page. Plan to read it in one sitting, if only because you have to know what happens now.

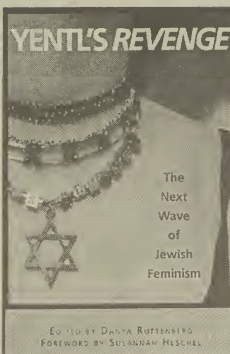
The latest Peter Lovesey, *The Vault* (Soho, \$13), begins with the discovery of a human hand buried under the Pump Room in Bath, England. The hand is clearly human, old, and represents the kind of low-key mystery that suits the current mood of Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond. When the bones seem to have a *Frankenstein* connection, the news media are on the story like the proverbial cheap suit, and Peter is suddenly urged to work faster and harder to solve the mystery. When a body turns up, intact but definitely murdered, and with a Mary Shelley connection (she wrote *Frankenstein*, you'll recall), Peter is ready to throw up both his hands and the disembodied one.

Lovesey weaves multiple plot strands with care, wit, and more than a touch of the macabre. This is a mystery that keeps you guessing all the way through, and the ending is as satisfying as one could wish. Peter Diamond is smart, funny, and aggrieved most of the time — in short, a detective to adore. *The Vault* is a whodunit of the richest kind, a pleasure for puzzle addicts everywhere.

Whither thou goest...

I greatly admire those persons who make the often strenuous effort to find a place for themselves in an organized religion that seems, on its face, to have no place for them at all. *Yentl's Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism* (edited by Danya Ruttenberg; Seal, \$16.95) is a wide-ranging collection of essays in which Jewish women report on their efforts to find a feminist space in the quintessential patriarchal religion. In her foreword, Susannah Heschel argues forcefully that "the bottom line was women's submission to male authority. Even when changes were made by the Conservative movement in which women were slowly permitted to take a more active role... the decisions were made by men."

Times have changed. "Feminism is about women's refusal to



submit to male authority. The real issue is not equality, but power. Who's in charge?" When I read these powerful, funny, and deeply moving essays, I know who I want to be in charge. These women are struggling to re-form an ancient religion, to honor its traditions in new ways. In the words of Haviva Ner-David, to be "a person who has carved out her own way and found her own spiritual route while trying to maintain a respect for others, a sense of communal responsibility, and a tie to the past." No small undertaking that, but one worth all our best efforts. The essayists in *Yentl's Revenge* offer each of us a place to begin.

Book Report**On display**

I'm so glad that I have a coffee table, because *Celebrity: The Advocate Interviews* (by Judy Wieder; Alyson, \$21.95) is one fabulous coffee-table book. A collection of 16 interviews, including Barbra and Liza and Emma and Ellen, this a book to display with pride. And if you decide to read it — well, the interviews are pretty entertaining, the accompanying photos gorgeous, and you just may learn a thing about some of your favorite famous folk.

You'll have to choose this evening (November 1) when you visit the Main Library. From 6-7:30 p.m., Malachy McCourt (*A Monk Swimming*) reads from his new book, *Singing My Him Song*. At 6:30 p.m., lesbian theologian Virginia Ramey Mollenkott reads from her new book, *Omnigender*, in which she proposes "a new non-dualistic paradigm for society." And if that doesn't do it for you, drop by the Main on November 3 from 1-5 p.m. when "Gender Queers, Butch Dykes, and FTMs Talk About Gender."

In what may be a frighteningly timely event, also at the Main (I may just camp out there) on Nov. 3: "Perseverance and Survival: Communities Redefined by America's Concentration Camps." From 2-4 p.m., former internees share their experiences, and discuss America's continuing racial intolerance. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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BOOKS

Down at heart

by Chris Culwell

The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression by Andrew Solomon; Scribner, \$28

Before September 11, the idea of reading a book about depression might have struck some folks as self-indulgent. Given recent events, however, boning up on the Big D seems a fitting pastime for anxious infidels. Novelist Andrew Solomon's *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression* mostly fits the bill in depression studies. Though it is frequently more plentiful than focused, the book is sure to become a touchstone among popular studies of depression.

An atlas is defined as a collection of informative texts and illustrations that illuminate an area or subject. Solomon's tome is similar in that it comments on just about every known aspect of

depression. The first half of the book looks at different types of depression and their treatments, and anti-depressant drugs, their efficacy and side effects, while the second half looks at history's view of the melancholic personality (Enlightenment types thought depressives weak, Romantics aligned illness with insight), the economics and politics of depression, addiction, and theories of depression. Laced throughout the book are candid and sometimes heartbreaking interviews with people from all walks of life who have endured depression, both the severe variety requiring hospitalization, and the more-or-less benign variant typically treated with drugs and therapy.

The author's method resembles classic ethnography: he begins by examining his own, often harrowing depressive breakdown, looks at similar depression in others, and then studies the disease as it is understood in countries like Senegal, Cambodia, Greenland,

and elsewhere. Deepening the focus, he then analyzes depression in groups of people — blacks, women, children, the elderly, gays and lesbians — who experience the illness as a result of social marginalization. Of lesbians and gays, Solomon cites an American study in which, of 1,500 students, gay people of either gender were "more than seven times as likely to have made four or more suicide attempts as straight students."

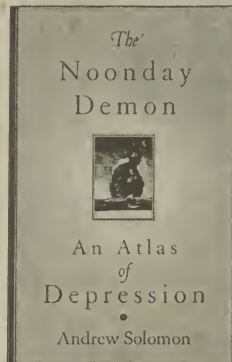
Field work

Though not a scientist, Solomon, whose other writing credits include the acclaimed novel *A Stone Boat*, proves himself a deft anthropologist. His field work with depressives around the world reveals a number of disturbing facts, not the least of which is that while the complaint is universal, each instance of depression is different. "Like snowflakes," writes Solomon, "depressions are always unique, each based on the same essential principles, but each boasting an irreducibly complex shape." Generalized approaches to diagnosis and treatment can contain depression, but in instances where the malady is as much culturally determined as it is biologically — as it most likely is among some lesbians and gays and many blacks — external realities must play a part in understanding how depression functions. "The monolithic problem of depression cannot be addressed with a monolithic response," writes Solomon. "Depressions are contextual and must be interpreted within the contexts in which they occur."

To the casual reader, Solomon's book might seem scientific, but a bloodless, clinical study of depression was hardly his purpose. Ultimately, this is a philosophical investigation into the meaning of depression in the here-and-now. Where the depressed hear either nothing about mental illness or the tiresome cliché that Prozac "saved my life," this book fills a void. It is perhaps

the only work on the subject that both flirts with scientific ideas about the illness while also describing in no uncertain terms the human cost of living with depression. Indeed, where academic tomes like the *Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry* define depression as "equivalent to the level of 3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenylglycol minus the level 3-methoxy-4-hydroxymandelic acid," etc., we are in debt to Solomon for the revelation that "depression takes up bodily occupancy in the eyelids and in the muscles that keep the spine erect. It hurts your heart and lungs, making the contraction of involuntary muscles harder than it needs to be." And further: "Like physical pain that becomes chronic, it is miserable not so much because it is intolerable in the moment as because it is intolerable to have known it in the moments gone and to look forward only to knowing it in the moments to come."

Solomon is the first to admit that no one really knows what causes depression, or why it afflicts so many today. His poetic gifts do, however, take us deep inside the condition, allowing a fully human view of our horizon of anxiety. In a technology-obsessed age in which simple solutions are sought for every complex problem, no matter how insufficient they may be to the task, one cannot underestimate the value of a study that is both so exhaustive and relentlessly forthcoming. ▼



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Divine on DVD

◀ page 33

from a host of 20th-century bad boys, including playwrights Eugene Ionesco, Jean Genet, and Edward Albee, and filmmaker Andy Warhol. Then he went his own way, dredging up mordant memories of '50s-style Baltimore and overlaying them with '70s nihilism. Laced that with plentiful supplies of dope and speed, and you have the unique cultural phenomena that is early John Waters.

Sleaze play

Both *Pink Flamingos* and *Female Trouble* borrow from movie images of the past and paste them onto a uniquely sleazy package. In *Pink Flamingos*, ace criminal Divine is hiding in an undisclosed trailer outside of Baltimore under the name Babs Johnson. She proudly declares herself the filthiest person alive, but she must vie for the title against baby-sellers Connie and Raymond Marble, played by the amateurish Mink Stole and David Lochary. The dog-shit scene, surely as famous as Kane's "Rosebud," settles the contest. *Female Trouble*, packaged together with *Pink Flamingos* in one fetid DVD box, hints at being a movie with more complex structure. Teenage rebel Dawn Davenport

takes to a life of petty crimes, failed marriage, infanticide, show business, and the electric chair. Divine, moving from teenage pimples to death-row insanity, has a *tour de force*.

Waters delighted in revealing Baltimore, and by extension America, as a decaying and perverted sinkhole of degradation. Some see America the Beautiful, Waters saw America the Sick and Twisted. But *Pink Flamingos* is not *Freaks*, and he invites his audience to stop taking itself so seriously. Waters left room for the virtues of family love (Babs is always kind to her mother) and sweet romance of a kind (Miss Edie and the Egg Man). It's hard to look at early Waters and not see some recognizable reflection in the dirty streets and tacky decor. Of course, he softened his aesthetic for mainstream respectability in later efforts such as *Polyester*, *Hairspray*, and *Serial Mom*, but he gladly takes a stroll down memory lane for the new DVDs. Even as he pursues the approval of a wider audience, Waters hearkens back to a time when crabs were the ultimate STD, and weekends were spent at riots, not raves. In his commentary over the chicken-fucking scene in *Pink Flamingos*, when the line between camp, nausea, and snuff gets blurred, he laughs and says, "It's like looking at your past crimes at a parole hearing." ▼

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Winter games heat up

by Mister Marcus

We are fast approaching the year's home stretch. It's been a good year, with hundreds of thousands of dollars raised from coast to coast by leather title-holders, leather men and women of all kinds, and friends of our community. Fortunately, we are not alone in working for worthy causes: we have the court system, the bear community, the jocks, the porn actors, and the artists and entertainers who "put out" in their own ways to help whatever cause they are called upon to promote.

With that thought in mind, let's trip butchly through the latest leather (and other) luminaries who have burst upon the scene to make their mark en route to whatever higher goals they are striving to achieve.

Already nearly two dozen contenders have lined up for the IML 2002 title, all duly recorded here previously. Not all the "new meat" in town will go for the IML title, however. Some will go for the American Brotherhood Weekend titles — American Leather Man, American Leather Woman, and American Leather Boy — some will go for the International Sir or International Boy (replacing the Drummer disaster), and some will go for IML, or IML, or Ms. World Leather. Many have the option of making a choice.

Locally, Michael Schaefer is Mr. Hayes Valley Leather and will go on to compete for the Mr. SF Leather title in 2002.

The International Mr. Bear title will be up for grabs next February, and in anticipation of that event, Mr. San Francisco Bear will be chosen this weekend.

Up at the Russian River, Michael Anderson took the Mr. Triple R Leather title and will compete later this month for the Mr. North Coast Leather title.

In Reading, Pennsylvania, Carlos Merced was chosen Mr. Tri-City Leather 2002 on Friday, October 19. The weekend before that, Thom Kahn was chosen Mr. Reading Leather 2002; he will



Bazaar



Gwen Evans, left, was named SF Leather Dyke Boy 2002, and Kim Croteau was named SF Leather Dyke Grl 2002, at the El Rio bar on Saturday, October 20.

compete for the Mid-Atlantic Leatherman 2002 title in Washington, D.C. in January.

Coming up before the end of the year around the rest of the country, Mr. Pennsylvania Leather will be chosen in Scranton this weekend; Mr. and Ms. Texas Leather Pride will be chosen in Austin; and Mr. Maryland Leather will be chosen in Baltimore the same weekend.

On Thanksgiving weekend, Peter Theodoropoulos will pass his sash on to the new Mr. Toronto Leather Man; and in Washington, D.C., Darrell Moyers (1st runner-up at IML) will sash the new Mr. DC Eagle during that bar's 30th anniversary weekend.

This weekend, Ms. San Diego Leather will be selected at the contest being held at The Hole on

next page ►



Toronto Leatherman Peter Theodoropoulos steps aside in Toronto on Thanksgiving weekend in a leather extravaganza matched by no other city in Canada.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, November 1

Big Basket contest at the Edge, with funnyman Danny Williams doing the emcee honors, plus plenty of pulchritude on parade.

Weekend, November 2-4

Mr. SF Bear weekend all at the Lone Star, with Bears in Boxers party on Thursday; Bear Uniform Party & Roast on Friday, and the contest on Sunday from 1600-2000. It's all to benefit the Alexander Hamilton Post of the American Legion.

Mr. NE Pennsylvania Leather contest weekend in Scranton; Mr. Maryland Leather contest in Baltimore, Mr. and Ms. Texas Leather Pride contests in Austin, Texas; Ms. San Diego Leather contest at the Hole in San Diego, and the big Playgrounds 2001 party in Amsterdam.

Friday, November 2

Stompers-sponsored Boot Night at the Loading Dock, from 2100 to closing. Boot fanciers and freaks will gather with "Driller" doing free shines.

Saturday, November 3

Andy Rose celebrates his 40th at Mr. Lee-Ona's, and Jimmy Quinn hits the 69th mark at Club Rendez-Vous, both in the afternoon.

Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco will be chosen, with a "Moulin Rouge" theme at the Cathedral

Hill Hotel, at 2000. Pay in advance \$15 ducats, or \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at Diva's and Marlena's.

Sunday, November 4

Memorial service at 7th Avenue Presbyterian Church (1329 Seventh Ave.), at 1400, for Carlos Mosca, former president of the SF Defenders — a great loss to many in the club community and beyond.

Tony Koester's birthday party and benefit for Project Open Hand, with a beer/soda bust. Bring canned foods and witness beatings and usual games.

Weekend, November 8-12

In Guerneville, it's the Mr. North Coast Leather and Ms. Russian River Leather weekend;

In Palm Springs, it's the Mr. Palm Springs Leather weekend;

In Ottawa, Canada, it's the Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather weekend;

In Fort Lauderdale, it's the Mr. Florida Leather 2001 contest;

In San Jose, it's the Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contest;

And finally, there's the Cal Eagles MC overnight run to the Russian River.

Whew! Can U keep up?

POLKSTRASSE

Country gals come out

by Sweet Lips

A long time ago I used to dance the two-step in cowboy boots and hat. That was back in my butch period, sometime in the last millennium, or maybe it was a previous life. Anyway, as a one-time country gal, I get goosebumps just thinking about the shindig Kuntry Gal pal Cockatelia has cooked up for the cowpokes here at Club Rendez-Vous, my hangout, where I corral strays and force them to listen to my stories about the old days.

Cockatelia calls her gig, "It's a Little Bit Country in the Wild Wild West," and I for one hope that sexy James West shows up (you do remember Robert Conrad, don't you? He was the hunk who played special government agent James West during the run of *Wild Wild West* in the late '60s). But I digress. Cockatelia's shitkicking event (pardon my French) happens this Friday, No-

vember 2 from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. So y'all come on down, give yer spurs a rest, grab a partner and dance the dos-a-dos. Yee haw!

Did I mention our own David Kapp will be celebrating his birthday here that same night? Well, he is, so be sure to give him a birthday smooch when you bump into him!

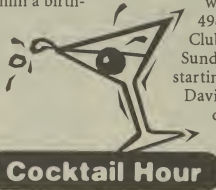
Oh, there's so much going on, I'm breathless. On Saturday, Jimmy "Mare" Quinn will be having a party here, and it's rumored he'll be dusting off his best drag. Maybe you'll recognize her by the faint smell of mothballs!

Also on Saturday, over at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, the creme-de-la-creme of the gay community will turn out to see the crowning of the new Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco. As the world turns, and nations duke it out, it's ever

more important to support our local royalty, so do your patriotic duty by turning out for the show. Tickets are available at Divas; just ask Alexis.

Speaking of royalty, the Emperor himself, Tom Bash, will be hosting the 49er fundraiser at Club Rendez-Vous this Sunday, November 4, starting at 12:30 p.m. David & James will be doing their usual fabulous football thing, as they do for every game, but this time with a little

Imperial help. Tom has four favorite charities: PAWS, Le Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, LYRIC, and Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners. Go Niners! Would you ever have imagined the Lips rooting for a sports team? The last time I saw an actual football, I was bent over a locker-room bench. Don't ask. ▼



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Saturday, November 2 at 1600.

Mr. North Coast Leather will be chosen in Guerneville at the Russian River Leather Weekend November 9-12 while Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather will be chosen in San Jose at the same time.

Mr. Florida Leather will be chosen in Fort Lauderdale that same weekend.

Norm Miller passes his sash to the new Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather the weekend of November 8-12.

In Europe, a studly Italian man, "Maurizio" (Mr. Italy) won the Mr. Leather Europe title and goes on to compete at IML in May. And in Houston, Chris Baudier was chosen Mr. Lone Star

Sir and goes on to compete at the Gulf Coast Sir title in Dallas early next May.

Oh, there's more, to be sure, but why overload you this early? It's safe to say a whole flock of newcomers is headed our way, and we hope all of them will continue the legacies of their predecessors.

New dyke titles

It may seem an over-abundance of leather titles is coming at you, but these days most seem to integrate easily into the subculture as we know it. Two week-ends ago, for instance, a contest was held to find San Francisco Dyke Boy (or Boi, depending your taste) and San Francisco Dyke Grrl.

The event was held at the El Rio in the outer Mission, with a

big crowd on hand to cheer the women on. I don't know how, but they managed to pull out of retirement the delightful "Rain-beau" for a stunning performance. The women were in heaven all afternoon.

In the final analysis, Gwen Evans was chosen Leather Dyke Boy 2002, and Kim Croteau was chosen Dyke Grrl 2002. More than \$1,000 was raised for the Breast Cancer fund in the process. Bravo to everyone involved with the project!

The holiday season is just around the corner, bringing with it many leather-family events and vital fundraisers. To keep up with what's happening here and in other areas of the leather nation, be sure to click on www.Leather-Page.com for news. See you all next week! ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

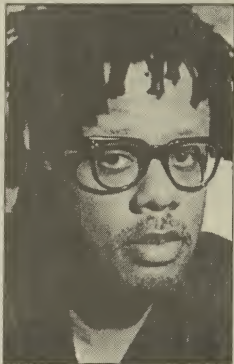
she called in a bomb threat to a Rolling Stones afterparty at Backflip. Kiki followed this tragic tale with a rendition of Bambi's signature song, "Charlotte Rampling."

The afterparty was sort of a Queer Nation reunion at the Hole in the Wall. It was more action than the Hole has seen in many a moon — of course, the same was true of the crowd. Cowpokes can only hope that Kiki & Herb will grace us soon with an extended run. One night is not enough!

Group of six

In other venue news, the brilliant jazz clarinetist Don Byron led his sextet in two swinging sets of combustible musical expression last weekend at the Herbst Theatre, as part of a happening kickoff for the 19th San Francisco Jazz Festival. Singers Rosemary Clooney and Paula West played Davies Hall the same night, and avant-garde composer Terry Riley shared the bill at the Herbst on Sunday with sitar master Krishna Bhatt and guitarist Fred Frith among others. Byron's concert featured music from his new CD *You Are #6*, a spicy stew of Afro-Caribbean riffs, calypso, Cumbia and traditional jazz rhythms. Call it a peak experience.

SFJAZZ continues through this weekend, with highlights in-



Jazz clarinetist Don Byron



Jazz pianist Brad Mehldau

cluding pianist sensation Brad Mehldau in an installment of his *Art of the Trio* series tonight (Nov. 1) at Bimbo's; well-loved hometown vocalist Mary Stallings with the Eric Reed Quartet, tonight at the Herbst; the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Friday and Saturday nights at Masonic Auditorium; and, for closing night Sunday, jazz legends Keith Jarrett, Gary Peacock and Jack DeJohnette at the Opera House. Yowza. Tickets: (415) 776-1999.

Garbage in, garbage out

In all of the *SF Chronicle* column inches given over to the deplorable state of the streets of San Francisco, never once have we seen the suggestion that maybe

club owners should be charged with picking up all those flyers and palm-cards plastered on parked cars. Or that restaurant owners should be charged with carting away all those take-out menus papering stoops and building vestibules.

Since the city is going to have an increasing number of social problems to address in the hard times ahead, perhaps the merchants and business owners who grouse about SF's catastrophic loss of tourists should take it upon themselves to mount a clean-up campaign. It would give Chamber of Commerce members something to do — when they're not stocking up on survival goods. ▼

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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

La lesbian

Heads-up lesbians — "La Lesbian @ La Peña: A Lesbian Performance and Film Series" kicks off this week with some special warm-up events, then shifts into high filmic gear next weekend.

Most of the action takes place at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley, with the opening night screening on Friday, November 9 happening at the more spacious Fine Arts Cinema (2451 Shattuck). The program of music, dance and film is produced by Karen Hester with support from Elana Dyke-womon, Jackie Thomason, Jennifer Wilson, Janet S. Boyle & Jennifer S. Graham, M.T. Silvia, and Anonymous. For your dyke pleasure, they've lined up the following entertainments:

Thursday, November 1: live music by singer/songwriters Faith Nolan and Megan McElroy. Tickets are \$14 at the door. Showtime is 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 4: "A bailer!" — dancing to salsa, merengue and cumbia sounds mixed live by DJs Rosa Oviedo and Chata Gutierrez. \$7 door. 5-9pm. Salsa class 5-6pm.

Wednesday, November 7: "I Love Lezzie!" The wacky 20-member troupe present goofball comedy sketches, original musical acts, a gay-friendly evangelist, and the Femme Robbers, who go gunning for beauty products armed with AquaNet. The opening act is Windy Plains.

Friday, November 9: Opening-night screenings at Fine Arts Cinema: *Family Pack (Une Petite Fête)*, directed by Chris Vander Stapper (Belgium, 2000; in French w/English subtitles; 7pm). It's a bittersweet farce of familial misunderstandings, in which Odile challenges her girlfriend Sacha to come out to her family. Also, at 9 p.m., "Quality Film Features," presented in conjunction with Women of Color Film & Video Network.

Saturday, November 10: "Mayhem and Music," 3 p.m., presented with the IMA Institute for the Musical Arts, featuring short works by directors Mary Matthews, Maureen Bradley, Shanti Avirgan & Inka Stafaice, Laurie Schmidt, Ann P. Meredith, Sue de Nym, and Dr. Dee Mosbacher.

"Youth Out," at 5 p.m., screens works by young queers. At 7 p.m. Gurinder Chadha's comedy-drama "What's Cooking?" depicts four diverse families together for Thanksgiving. The cast includes Julianna Margulies (from *E.R.*) and Kyra Sedgwick as Carla and Rachel, longtime lesbian partners who make shocking announcements over dessert. At 9:15 p.m. enjoy "Wild Women Don't Get The Blues," a collection of films presented in conjunction with NIA: Collective Lesbians of African Descent, and TriKone, a support group for queer people of South Asian heritage.

Sunday, November 11: "Home Where You Are, Who Are You?" A series of shorts, presented at 3 p.m. along with Luna Sea Performance Project. At 5 p.m. the Women's Cancer Resource Center and Breast Cancer Action copresent "Kick Ass Women," with two films focusing on life, love and breast cancer. The festival wraps up at 7 p.m. with "Escape to Life," a documentary about Erica and Klaus Mann, the queer children of Thomas Mann. ▼

La Peña Cultural Center is at 3105 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 654-6346; www.lapena.org



The Toilet Boys play with Blue Period and Sparrows Point at The Pound SF. See Wednesday.

Eri

Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Theater

"Sacre Bleu!! It's the Lamplighters 36th Annual Champagne Gala!" Paris is in the throes of a wine shortage which threatens the existence of the neighborhood hangout of Monet, Ravel, Picasso and others of their ilk. Will they find alternative beverage sources? Will they have to conserve wine? Or — worst of all — will the evil Louis Louis implement "rolling dryouts"? Find out if the Lamplighters can can-can in this one-of-a-kind original show, as zany as ever. Directed by Christopher Walkey; conducted by Baker Peeples. Champagne reception with cast. \$50. 8pm. Also on Nov. 3 (8pm) & 4 (2pm). 2350 Turk St. (just west of Masonic on the USF campus). Tix/info: 978-2787; www.lamplighters.org

Goat Hall

Opening night: Goat Hall Productions presents "The Consul," a musical drama in three acts by Gian Carlo Menotti, with stage direction by Harriet March Page and music direction by Mark Alburger. Menotti wrote his most haunting, beautiful music for this tale of desperate revolutionaries and refugees at the mercy of a faceless bureaucracy. It premiered on Broadway in 1950 and won both the Pulitzer Prize and the NY Drama Critics Award. \$15 (\$12 senior/student). 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. Thru Nov. 18. 400 Missouri St. (at 19th St.). Tix/info: 289-6877; www.goathall.org

Studio @ Rhino

erins productions presents "Why We Have A Body," a

play by Claire Chafee, winner of four SF Dramalogue Awards, the Bay Area Critic Circle Award for original script, and Newsday's Oppenheimer Award. It tells the story of Lili, a lesbian private investigator who stalks guys cheating on their wives and romances a paleontologist, her sister Mary, a mentally unhinged Joan-of-Arc-obsessed criminal who holds up 7-Elevens, and their mother, Eleanor, who has disappeared to lead the rugged life of an explorer on the Amazon River. \$15 (\$13 students/seniors). 8:30pm Thu.-Sat. thru Nov. 24 (no perf. 11/22). Info/tix: 861-5079; www.erinsproductions.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace artist-in-residence Sue Roginski presents "One Or Two," a new dance work that delves into the relationship of two men, focusing on issues ranging from intimacy to isolation. Slide photography by Elizabeth Gorelik. Featuring dancers Eric Kuipers and Nol Simonse. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

848 Community Space

"Hyena Comedy Showcase," ten rib-tickling acts representing a polyglot of the SF Bay Area: giddy gay guys, lewd lesbians, distraught Cosmo hotties, naughty Silicon Valley nerds, irreverent Indians and the debut presentation of the West Oakland band, "The Sleeper." Featuring Missy Crawford, Sue Clark, Danny Ryan, Kristian Ruggieri, Scott Yeats, Steve Bush, Charley Lu, Walter Smith, Wendy Taylor, Norman Goldblatt, and Holly Yeats Sanders. Laugh 'til you pee! \$6. 8:30 pm. 848 Divisadero St. Info: Hank

Hyena, 643-8118 x 2; www.848.com

Kimo's

Live bands: "Rock Out With Your Cock-Out!," an 80s Metal Night featuring sexy noise by Scurvy Dogs, Flush, Black Furies, One Pump Chump, and Empty Bindle. \$5. 9pm. 21+ w/D. Located at 1351 Polk St. (at Pine).

The Pound SF

Live bands: Sparrow's Point, Bullt, Stutch, and Motochrist. Full bar with over 15 beers on tap. A large patio/smoking section, to enjoy the show a cigarette and a drink at the same time. \$10 8pm. 100 Cargo Way (off 3rd St. btwn Cesar Chavez and Evans sts.).

A Different Light Bookstore

Opening reception: figurative paintings and drawings by Rene Capone. Two series are presented: "There is a fountain full of blood," with a fountain and figures of young men as a metaphor for the struggles of youth and HIV/AIDS (Capone is 23 and positive), and "reluctance of love," which explore the darkness and beauty of the spirit. Free. 8-10pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.rcapone.com

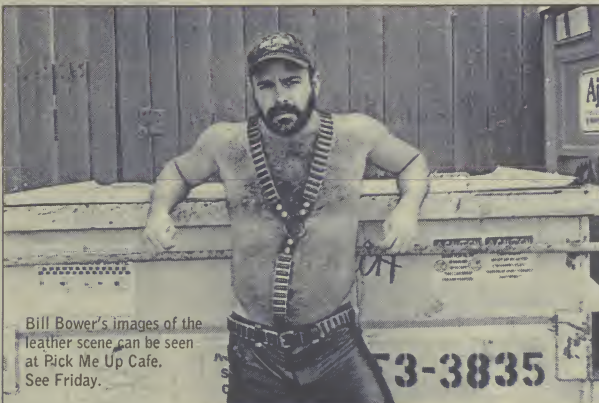
Pick Me Up Café

Ongoing exhibit: photography by Bill Bowers depicting the SF leather community from 1975 to 2000, capturing the gritty reality of gay men and women exploring their sexuality. Thru Nov. 30. Located at Folsom & 9th St.

Sat

Main Library

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center presents



Bill Bower's images of the leather scene can be seen at Pick Me Up Cafe. See Friday.



June Watanabe joins Hiroshi Koike at SF-PALM. See Tuesday.

"Genderqueers, Butch Dykes and FTMs Talk About Gender: A Community Dialogue," co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute and the SF Human Rights Commission. Free. 1pm. Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room. Info: www.harveymilk.org; www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfhumanrights; www.friendsandfoundation.org

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under the baton of Artistic Director Dr. Kathleen McGuire, performs "Lust in Space," featuring special guest Nichelle Nichols, a jazz vocalist best known as "Commander Uhura" from the TV series *Star Trek*. In this concert, Nichols plays the part of a spiritual space goddess and guides the audience on a magical journey through space and time. She and the 200 men of the chorus will navigate through selections from *Star Trek*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Wiz*, *Metropolis*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and much more. Presented by Golden Gate Performing Arts. Inc. \$20, \$30, and \$40. 3301 Lyon St. (opposite the Presidio). Info: www.sfgmc.org; Box Office: 4053 18th Street (at Hartford).

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: In concert: "Tapestry," a music celebrating the songs of Carole King, conceived and created for the stage by Rowan Joseph, John Kroner and Jeffrey Martin. With stage direction by Earl D. Weaver and musical direction by Alan Fricke. Featuring Lara Bruckman, Wade Crosson, Beth Elliott, Jorge Hernandez, Sean Ray and Thana Yacap-Zaragoza. A musical journey through the career of this songwriting legend from the turbulent 1960s to the present. Songs include "I Feel The Earth Move," "You've Got A Friend," and "Natural Woman." \$35 opening night; \$15-\$25 other nights. Thru Dec. 2 (no show Nov. 22). 25 Van Ness Ave. Info/tix: 861-8972; www.ticketweb.com

Centerstage, Osher Marin JCC

Comedian Kate Clinton pokes fun at the world with her insightful and unruly thoughts of modern day family relationships and perspectives on life as a gay American. \$30 (\$25 JCC members). 8pm (also 5pm on Sun., Nov. 4). 200 N. San Pedro, San Rafael. Tix: (415) 444-8000; www.marinjcc.org/centerstage

Kimo's

Live bands: eXtreme Elvis, Frank Moore, and Fluff Grrl. 9pm. 21+ w/D.

The Pound SF

Live bands: Castles In Spain (CD release), Tre's Pistas, Venus Bleeding, Gun & Doll

Show, Fear Of Math. \$10. 8pm.

Marlena's

Fauxgirls! presents "A Lyric Evening," a benefit for LYRIC (Lavender Youth Resource and Information Center). This special show will feature the regular cast plus all drag performers who want to display their talent. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672.

Sun

Sadie's Flying Elephant

"K'vetsh," a queer open mike hosted Lynnee B. and Tara Jepson. Bring poetry, music, stories, etc. First Sunday of every month. \$1 admission. 9pm. 491 Potrero (Corner of Mariposa).

First Unitarian Church

The G40 Plus Club, a social organization of mature GLBT men, presents "Transitions: a discussion on supporting someone we love through the dying process," with featured speaker David Cardenas, Executive Director of Transitions. 2:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Info: 552-1997.

Civic Center Plaza

Religious Witness with Homeless People (Sister Bernie Galvin, cdp) presents "Prayer Service/Rally: As One People." The event is held "in solidarity with poor and homeless people forced to leave our Bay Area cities as a result of the neglect of local governments to make our cities affordable to ALL." 2:30pm rain or shine. Info: 929-0761.

Kimo's

Live bands: Sharks Keep Moving (WA), Dilute, and Til 7 Years Pass Over Him. 9pm. 21+ w/D.

26 Mix

"TransFusion," hosted by Fudgie Frottag and Vinsantos, with celebrity kings & queens in a kick-ass drag show. DJs Stephanie Phillips and Taffy D spin punk, rock, glam and New Wave. 8pm-2am. 3024 Mission St. (at 26th St.). Info: 282-5378.

Mon

Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble perform "People, Places, Things," a concert of five contrasting works by Lee Hyla, Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig Beethoven, György Kurtág and Heitor Villa-Lobos. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: Chamber Music Partnership, 642-8054.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"A Conversation with Tony Award-Winning Playwright

Terrance McNally, "moderated by Jonathan Katz, presented by NCTC in partnership with the Harvey Milk Institute and the Queer Arts Festival. McNally has won four Tony Awards: 1998 for the musical *Ragtime*; 1996 for *Master Class*, in which Zoe Caldwell created the role of Maria Callas; 1995 for *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; and 1993 for the musical *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. McNally wrote the book for *The Full Monty*, the music hit currently on Broadway. McNally wrote the librettos for NYC Opera's *Central Park Opera Trilogy* and SF Opera's premiere of *Dead Man Walking*. Reception follows. \$30. 7:30pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Info/tix: 861-8972; www.ticketweb.com

Tue

Main Library

Artist reception: "Six Degrees of Fabrication," a photography exhibit by Will Shank, presented by The Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the Main Public Library. Free. 6:30pm. Exhibit runs thru Dec. 30. Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Room, 4th floor. 100 Larkin St. (Civic Center). Info: 557-4251.

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books

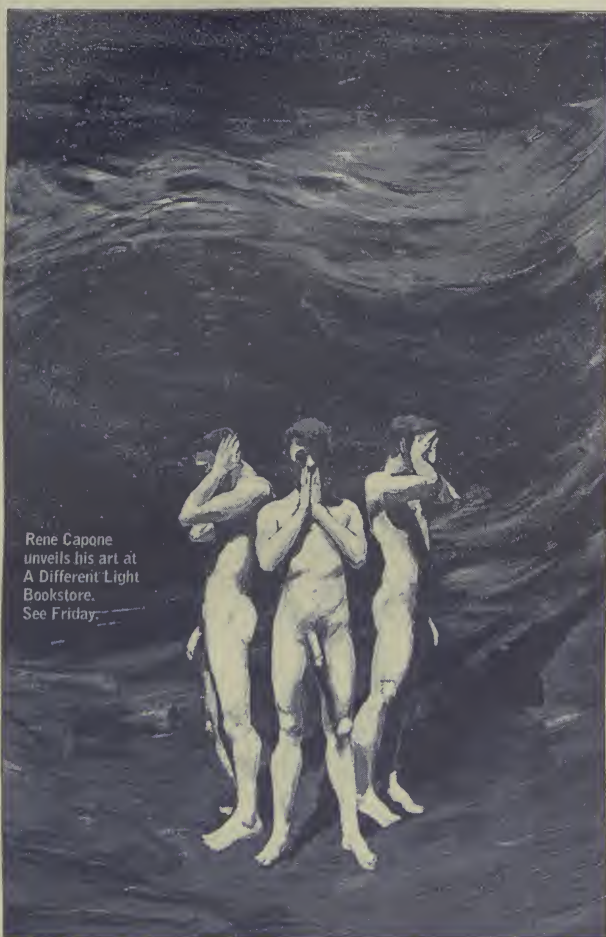
Central Booking, an online community for book lovers, co-presents K.M. Soehnlein, author of *The World of Normal Boys*, a family tragedy and sexual awakening of one sheltered teenager on the path toward rebellion and adulthood, and Alexander Chee, author of *Edinburgh*, in which a young man is forced to confront a painful trauma in his past. Free. 7:30pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. Info: 441-6670; www.central-booking.com

SFPALM

Choreographer June Watanabe joins in conversation with Hiroshi Koike, Artistic Director of Pappa TARAHU-MARA, a multidimensional dance theatre company from Japan. \$10 (\$5 students/SFPALM members). 6pm. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, Veterans Bldg., 4th floor. Info/tix 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Women's Work," a bi-monthly, multi-disciplinary showcase produced by Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Heidi Langraf's "Caught," in which dancers emerge as "pests" from the captivity of Pandora's Box; Strong Current Dance Company in "Delicate Choice," choreographed by Kirsten Williams; and "Always On Sunday," comic storytelling by Audrey Ward, about the life of a "sinner in saintly robes." \$8-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom &



Rene Capone unveils his art at A Different Light Bookstore. See Friday.

Howard). Info/tix: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Books Inc.

Double reading with Mabel Maney and Kirk Read. Many reads from *Kiss the Girls and Make Them Spy*, a lesbian spy novel spoof ("Bond...Jane Bond."). Read will read from his debut memoir, *How I Learned to Snap*, about being openly gay in a small southern high school. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. (btwn Noe & Sanchez). Info: 864-6777.

Wed

Main Library

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center presents a reception and reading of the new book *Out of the Closet, Into Our Hearts: Celebrating Our Gay/Lesbian Family Members* with editor/contributor Laura Siegel and other contributors from PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Free. 6pm reception; 6:30pm program. Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room. 100 Larkin St. Info: www.friend-

sandfoundation.org

Kimo's

Live bands: Fleshy's, Narrow, and Blown To Bits. 9pm. 21+w/D.

Bazaar Cafe

Live music: Garrin Benfield hosts the "GLBT Songwriter Series," featuring brilliant young recording artists Holcombe Waller ("Extravagant Gesture") and Mitchell Tanner ("Dawn of the Night Flyers"). 7pm. 5927 California St. Info: 831-5620; www.garrin.com

The Pound SF

Live bands: The Toilet Boys (NY glam punks), Sparrow's Point (SF metal punks), and Blue Period (SF glam punks). Expect queer/queer-friendly music and posturing. \$10/\$12. 8pm. All ages. All kinds. Info: www.blue-period.com; www.toiletboys.com

Thu

The Art Gallery, SFSU

Opening reception: "Visions of the Self: Queer Identities In Question." With artists both

queer and/or supportive of queer communities, this exhibition offers sculpture, photography, paintings and digital media expressing views about life, family, childhood, fantasies and sexuality. Featured artists: Enrique Andrade, Shiloh Burton, Cory W. Peeke, Terese Bravo, Bob Lawless, Richard Rinehart, and Lynne Todaro. Each artist has a story. Says Andrade: "I paint my mother's arms on tin, like a *milagro*. I am thanking her for the hard manual labor she has done as a farm worker and janitor to support my life as an artist." Free. 5-8pm. Cesar Chavez Student Center, SF State University. Info: 338-2580; www.sfsustudentcenter.org/artgallery

Théâtre Tableau Vivant

Wally Gorell directs "Half a Dozen Dorothy's," an evening out with Dorothy Parker, starring Arturo Galster and Jeff Simpson. Donation. 8pm. Also Nov. 9, 10 & 11. 574 Natoma St. (btwn Mission & Howard). RSVP: 621-8417.

Kimo's

Live bands: Kinski, Primal Undermine, Sinombre. 9:30pm. 21+w/D.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

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Cal Performances



American Premiere! La Guerra d'Amore

The Company of Joachim Schlömer
Joachim Schlömer, director & choreographer

Ensemble Concerto Vocale
René Jacobs, conductor

Fri & Sat, Nov 16 & 17, 8 PM
ZELLERBACH HALL \$34, \$44, \$52

Set to *Madrigali Guerrieri ed Amorosi* (Madrigals of Love and War) by Claudio Monteverdi, performed by renowned period music specialist René Jacobs' own Ensemble Concerto Vocale, this exquisite work translates the universal language of love into music. Featuring a cast of nine vocalists and 21 dancers together on stage, *La Guerra d'Amore* marks the first performances in the Americas of an evening-length production by Joachim Schlömer, who has worked with such dance greats as Mark Morris, Pina Bausch, and Mikhail Baryshnikov and is today, one of Europe's most sought-after opera and dance directors.

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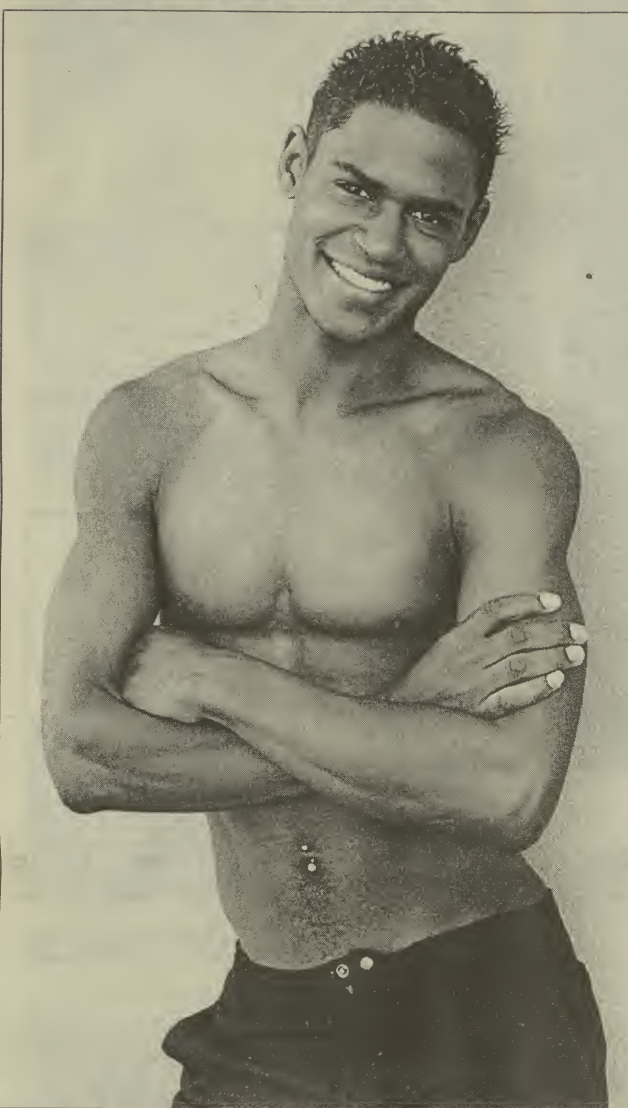
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The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble - Trio play the Green Room. See Monday.

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PARTING GLANCES

~N Judah~
Sat 8/22 got on at Cole. Sat across from you. I wore sunglasses you had great hairy legs. Let's talk-meet? Thanks ☎ 71059

Wed 9/26 8am Mkt/Church
You: blue car, s/p hair, great smile. Me: white car, smiling back. Let's talk. ☎ 71060

•Pleasure Dome, Sunday Oct 7~
You: Extremely attr. White guy, blond hair, built swimmers build, saying a prayer on dance floor when I noticed you. Have a attr. Phillipino boyfriend. Me: Handsome, built. Bk man. Would like to meet you, two. Would like to develop a good friendship/relationship. Thanks for a good dance & conversation. Sorry about your incident the night before. "Peace!" ☎ 71075

Watergarden SJ Employee "Johnny"
I get a room & I fantasize, you to come in, w/o. I can give you oral service, for you look so hot to thy eyes. ☎ 71076

"Glen", Folsom Street Fair,
I wanted to call but lost your number. You liked my smile, lit, and leather. Let's hook up. ☎ 71077

•Folsom Street Fair~
Me, a security guard in a cowboy hat at 9th and Howard gate. You in a harness and jeans cut offs. I want to kiss you again. ☎ 71078

Margaret Cho, 10-30 Eyecontact?
Me: GAM w/friend, you GWM w/? You were in same row across aisle. We smiled at each other when leaving. Interested in meeting for more!? ☎ 71079

"Brady!" Castro St. Fair Evening
You were on Castro nr Henry and we had fun. Call if you want a 3-way. ☎ 71080

•Folsom Fair~
Smirnoff booth @ 10th St. Me: pouring drinks, lthr vest, rope harness. You: muscular too, nice tats- nod & smile- Let's try to meet. ☎ 71081

Mom In China, Lives In Kauai
You're a native & love Kauai, me too! Met on underground from Church, I got off at Powell. I wanted to talk more. Please contact me. ☎ 71104

10/12 Fri. You Curly Brn Hair
Wearing gold Sarong. Me tall long hair hunk blu T. Saw you @ Castro again on Haight. You were moving too fast for me to speak around the lump in my throat. Coffee? ☎ 71105

F-Train Market/Castro Sat. Oct 13
Me: sunglasses, headphones, T-shirt: "His pain, your gain!" Hand with nail. I said hi- allowed you to enter first. Wish I'd sat with you. Give me another chance? Let's meet. ☎ 71106

Starbucks 10/6 5:30pm
Me: BM, musc, wearing ball cap, standing near entrance with friends. Me: WM, goatee, wearing ball cap with Japanese writing. We: immediately caught each others eyes with I entered with a friend. I'm visiting from NYC but you would be worth a return visit. ☎ 71107

SF Badlands, Sun, 21 Oct, 7:00
You: BM, musc, wearing ball cap, standing near entrance with friends. Me: WM, goatee, wearing ball cap with Japanese writing. We: immediately caught each others eyes with I entered with a friend. I'm visiting from NYC but you would be worth a return visit. ☎ 71107

Tues 10/23 Bell Mkt, Noe Valley
You: red t-shirt, nice eyes. Me: lime green striped polo shirt and jeans. Saw you in produce, then four people behind me in line. Let's go shopping together sometime. ☎ 71133

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Seeking Uncut Friend
GWM, 6', 175#, youthful senior, HIV-neg wants sex and a relationship with an uncut man. I like reading, conversation, cuddling and the outdoors. I'm masculine, affectionate and open to new activities. ☎ 71061

Looking For A Man To Love
I am Asian 40yrs old 5'8", 140lbs, good shape & slim body. HIV- looking for an older G.W.M. for possible ltr. No smoke serious only. Wht/hair & little chubby very+. ☎ 71062

Dad Seeks Son
Attractive Dad 40+ HIV-, hairy Italian, passionate, romantic, caring seeks smooth son under 35, HIV-, attractive, in-shape, who seeks ltr with attentive sweet youthful dad type. ☎ 71063

"Can Your Top Man Keep It Up?"
Do you wear out most tops? Unsatisfied with fifteen minutes of sex? Frustrated when he tops out after two rounds and you're just warming up? Hung, verbal, imaginative long sessions. ☎ 71064

Busco Hombre Latino Masculino
I am 33, 5'8", 5'9", Mexican, masculine, pale white skin, good personality, bottom in San Jose. You: 25-35 Latino, top with good personality with a friendship or serious relationship in mind. ☎ 71065

"Like To Cuddle?"
Straight acting prof. GLM, 53, 6'3", 250, HIV-, top ISO smooth bottom Asian/Latin+, interest are antiques, roadshow, movies, pets, not into bar scene. ☎ 71066

Cute Old Guy Seeks Same
Tall built hung hairy 63yr. old, beard & good-looking with sophisticated literary tastes seeks compatible men for lively talk and spirited sex. ☎ 71067

"GWM Seeks Hombre"
I am GWM 30ish, good lkg, energetic, & deaf guy seek to share entertainments plus sports. Pls no screaming females, barflies & NS. I am attracted to Hombres with wolf howls. If you are ready up to this point, please call & let's see if we can go out & have blast time! ☎ 71082

Seeking A Vigorous Top Mate
Me: middle aged AM bottom in fine shape, 5'7", 150#, strictly top, clean, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have an eager able good size tool. ☎ 71083

Monogamous Muscular Man
Seeks same 40-55, HIV-neg., with sensitive nips for dating (T.V., movies, dining) & titplay in S.F. I'm Asian, 5'7", 150#, 40c, 30w, HIV-neg. NS, no anal. ☎ 71084

I Will Cook, You Drive
Masculine, 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome, Eschbay manboi, seeks (call the shots kind of man), HIV- for fun romantic times. I'm All American and enjoy the edge. ☎ 71085

Your Dream Wife
Slender smooth feminine Asian, incurably romantic educated androgynous, enjoy sensual sex, movies, gardening, housework, cooking, 5'9", 124lbs, 30's. My husband: Caucasian, masculine, strong, professional, height-weight proportional. Early retired, ok. ☎ 71108

Redhead
SWM, 40, 5'10", 170lbs, blu eyes, ex-navy. Owns mobile home, Santa Rosa native. Seeks female companionship. ☎ 71109

Looking For Companion Friend
Please be under 40, very trim, handsome GD type want to spend quality and intimate time, share feelings, travel weekend getaways. Please help Asian man 65 to enjoy life. ☎ 71139

Sonoma County Non-Smoker
Mature HIV+ bottom sks top over 50. Possible ltr, but there must be chemistry. Life is too short to waste on the 3-date rule. ☎ 71110

Nice Mixed GA-WM Available
Cute professional, 34, 5'7", 150, hairy legs, dimples, conservative, fun loving guy ISO handsome, in-shape, HIV-, professional man to date on the weekends eventually settle down with. ☎ 71111

Skg Older Sex-Compatible Male
Me: attr., masc., pleasant, affectionate, alternative, literate, 45, HIV+, 6'2", 175, leather curious. You: patient, funny, friendly, progressive, prof., dominant, handsome, NS, ND, HIV+, tall, cut, hairy, verbal, kinky, 47-58. ☎ 71134

•Weekend Of Sex~
WM 40 bnm/bm stocky seeks man of any race, age, build. For sex after work and weekends. I'm in the East Bay. Very discreet. ☎ 71135

Masculine WM Seeks BM Dating
Masculine, handsome, adventurous, ambitious intelligent HIV+ early 30's seeks Blackmen 25-40 for friendship, dating even better if relationship evolves. Herb ok, no twerkers please! ☎ 71136

Sexy, Sane, Seasoned ISO Same
Good-looking PGWM, tall, very fit, smooth seeks gay man, 45+, fit, grounded for repeat wild gigs and hopefully more. ☎ 71137

Santa Rosa Native!
SWM, 40, 5'10", 170#, ex-navy. Red hair, enjoys outdoors, talk radio, exercise. Seeks female relationship. ☎ 71138

Semi-Normal, Employed HIV+ GWM
Looking, but don't want to get married on the 2nd date. Someone with common sense that can think on his own. Not 100% either way. 32, 6'1", 215#. ☎ 71140

In Shape GWM HIV+ Man
Handsome 42, 6'1", 190 dark hair/moustache masculine bottom/vers, enjoys gym, sports, movie, food. New to city, looking for GWM top/vers who enjoys similar interest w/o bar scene. ☎ 71141

Oral Service
Masculine White man 5'10", 170#, 7"u/c large balls, HIV negative, DDF, healthy, need regular service. ☎ 71142

Fuck & Piss Slave Wanted!
Seeking a bottom/drinker who's spiritually based and erotically driven. Master is handsome, early 40's, 5'10", 175lbs, br/bl, moustache, in nice shape. UB2. Fuck with condoms. Single men only. ☎ 71143

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Leather Top & Slave ISO Master
Mentor for 3-ways. Top 46, 180# 9"fat cut. Pierced slave 43, 160# 8"uncut. SM/BD/CBT/whip/WS/TT/oral/anal. Master mentor 35-50 & equipped dungeon or private outdoor space. ☎ 71068

A1 Oral Service Delivered
To trim, mature guys who need head with no reciprocation. SF GWM, handsome, friendly, trim, 6'1", 175#. HIV. ☎ 71069

Spanish Men Wanted
By muscular top 5'11", 165, rd-blid, blu, moustache, 52, HIV-, NS, N/D. Enjoy kiss, cuddling, vanilla to spice-movies, travel, dining in/out. ☎ 71070

GAM ISO GWM For Safe Clean Fun
37, 5'10", slender build, and lean cut. Not into scene. Enjoy long foreplay, kissing, j/o, oral, massage, lots of body contact. Must be STD free and healthy living. ☎ 71086

Sex Pigs In Portland
Well hung uncut BM ISO talented mature bottoms for deep plowings and/or oral experts for hot suck sessions at your place. Aroma, videos, dentures, are pluses. No conservatives. ☎ 71087

Horny Hobo
Homeless guy, UN Plaza, Market, looking for fun, safe togetherness. Smooth butt, hairy chest, light skin, hazel eyes, big feet, English/French/Welsh. ☎ 71088

GWM Seeking Fun Encounters
WM, 46, 145lbs seeking trim Asian or Latin under 50 for passionate and fun encounters. Do you love to kiss, cuddle & get wild? Your place or mine in SF. ☎ 71089

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM 36 5'10", 200lbs blond/blue clean cut muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to screw. Call anytime. ☎ 71090

Hot Oral Bottom!!
ISO hung oral top, 8 1/2 or bigger, Well built, for hot times. Me: 5'11", 170#, blue eyes, lite hair, tan, husky football player build. A definite plus. ☎ 71092

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

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Verbal Guys

Strip me naked, get me on my knees, sit on my face, and tell me what to do. Healthy, negative-straight looking, trim-bodies WM 42. ☎ 71093

White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 and submissive. Me: 57yrs old 9" cock 6'0", 165lbs, drk brn hair brn eyes glasses, hairy chest & stomach. ☎ 71094

They Say Opposites Attract?

Gentle, loyal traditional romantic GWM professional mid 50's, stocky, smoker, non-gym top fra/p HIV-, cut hard looking for submissive, loyal GWM cut bottom for regular servicing in oral/greek. ☎ 71095

Deep Throat Cocksucker
Needs hard cocks to lick, slurp, suck. Tilt work & verbal appreciated to make me hungrier & to open up my throat. 5'7", 160#, 53y/o, hairy, musc., buzzcut, go-t. ☎ 71096

Sonoma Fist Slave
ISO exp hb top HIV- 35-45, fit, for overnight scenes. Slave: 6'1", 200 fit, S7P flat top, x-military out door type, Fox. ☎ 71097

Tops Only - Bored With Same
Old game? Try a structured encounter w/another top. Answer, ad for details. Ub: slim build, 30's-40's, experimental. ☎ 71098

Beginning Cocksucker
Needs a/w any size tool to practice on. Seek nice gentle patient smooth to medium hairy clean shaven submissive to my fantasies, let me learn between your thighs your bottom. ☎ 71112

Fuck Me Naked Hot Latin Boy
With deep throat, tight ass nice legs, like to suck and get fucked, Redwood City area 27years old. ☎ 71113

GWM, 65, 5'8", 162, Fit Top
Seeks 38-48 GWM or GLM bottom my size or smaller for on going relationship. Me: academic/writer, like arts, nature, travel. You: share my interests, fit, financially secure. Serious only. No tricks. ☎ 71122

Blue Eyed-Masculine-Daddy
SWM, 60, 5'9", HIV-, hairy, big dick, balls, tanned, oral but versatile, seeks hairy guy under 55 will date travel, send pics on internet, Santa Cruz. ☎ 71115

Like To Show-Off?
Masculine, muscular, Italian topman wants to photograph in-shape men, 18 to 45. Especially Black, Asian, Latino blue-collar, White guys. Tattoos, bubble butts are A+. You keep photos-No \$\$. ☎ 71116

Sex Wanted
GWM needs sex daily. I enjoy sucking and being fucked. If you are always horny- let me service you. All ages & races. ☎ 71117

Dominant, Endowed East Bay
Black man, 47, seeks mature, submissive Hispanic men. Dark skin, dark hair, mustache big turn-ons. I'm discreet, honest, eager to please. Sincere responses only please. ☎ 71118

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
WM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncut, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 38-58, for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. ☎ 71119

31, WM Looking For A Good Friend
Interests: Yoga, music, dancing, movies. Looking for lrt, no flakes, please prefer under 45. ☎ 71120

Seeking HIV+ Guy Daytime
Tall 38yo attractive GWM seeks very oral 26-36yo bottom or versatile any race with slim smooth build for hot daytime sex possibly more. ☎ 71121

Submit To My Erotic Desires
Dominant masculine GWM, handsome, 42, 5'7", 180, goatee seeks submissive. Sex slave to fulfill my desires. Please my big cock and tongue my hole. Worship my feet. Thirsty anyone? (SF only). ☎ 71123

Fisting Butts Wanted ASAP
GBM 5'8" 185 med hands into tops videos watching red hankies/blue hankies. ☎ 71125

Dirty Old Man!
(No sense of decency whatsoever). Seeking bad ass butt boy. ☎ 71147

West Sonoma Co. Cock Sucker
Sweat sensuous mouth for long suck sessions. Play with my nips and look in my eye while I swallow your meat. ☎ 71146

Olderman Seeks Younger Friend
GWM, 70's, 5'8", 175, attr., young looking-acting seeks an 18-45 gdl/g. Boy-toy for on going friendship. Various scenes explored and mutually enjoyed. ☎ 71124

Big, Fat and Chubby
Seeking big men who want mutual dildo and nipple play by GBM 49yo. 5'11", 250lbs, only fat and chubby men with nipple and dildo experience. ☎ 71126

"Party Pals!"
Handsome SWGM 39 years old who likes to party and have hot safe sex! Ages 35-40 in East Bay. Leave message. Don ☎ 71144

Hot WM Lking For S.Vale Bear/Dad
6'1", 230lbs, 8" tool, very clean, ub. 2. Hot 40y.o. In Sunnyvale looking for hot dad/bear- type in the S. Valley/S. Bay Area for day & nite fun. ☎ 71145

"Just Shut Up And Ride!"
WM 36, 5'10", 200lbs blond/blue clean cut muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to screw. Call anytime. ☎ 71149

Anonymous Deep Throat Head
Bi WM HIV- 40s dominant very masculine likes getting off down an expert deep throat in dark private places if you are HIV- submissive in shape & hungry. ☎ 71151

Black Available For Quality Master
Me: 5'11", 175lbs, 50, muscular, professional, loner by choice, personable, CMT, made to serve. You: a patient top with a long time desire for a quality slave. Interested in control, humiliation, building a meaningful relationship, and good times. Serious only, let's talk. ☎ 71099

If Size Matters To You...
I'm sure you'll find my sweet, juicy Black meat impressive. But I need an oral sexpert who can satisfy, not just try. Be mature, masculine, easy to reach (no machines). ☎ 71150

Top ISO Fuckable Mouth/Butt
GWM, 50's, 5'10", 185, short hair, goatee, top ISO fuckbottom. Don't care about looks, age but more comfortable with real men than pretend boys. Appreciate enthusiasm and endurance. ☎ 71148

Good looking Montana Cowboy
New to area seeks a/w smooth clean shaven under 40 feminine gentle patient for w/horny open minded. Beginner to learn guy/guy sex to do everything top to bottom. ☎ 71152

LESBIAN

Women In Public Safety Field
Caring sincere So. Cal. GWF, 42, ISO above for friends, pen/e-mail pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Please take a chance! ☎ 71071

Co-Dependent Lesbian Space
Alien seeks same. Looking to meet women, eat cheesecake and find love on planet Earth. If you're a space alien too, call! ☎ 71072

FETISHES

Palo Alto GAM 45, 5'11", 185
BIV short hair- brn eyed smooth skin likes receiving hickies on my throat, in return I'll give you a blowjob at your place. ☎ 71073

Feet Together! Foot Play From
Sensuous to playful. Rubbing, touching, roleplaying, toe wrestling with hairy GWM, 39y.o. ☎ 71074

Bodybuilder Needs Bodyshaving
Mature body builder needs body shaving to bring out definition of muscles. Cock and balls too. ☎ 71127

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71100

Older Asian Men
I'm interested in meeting older Asian men 60+ who enjoy receiving slow, sensual-oral pleasure all over. I'm a 45yo LM 6', 165lbs. Not into gay scene. ☎ 71101

"Wanna Wrestle?"
Attractive, slenderly muscled 43yo. GWM with erotic wrestling fantasies wants to make them real by playing with hot, well-built guys into affectionate, sensual aggression. ☎ 71102

Raunchy Leather Dad
GWM 45, 5'9", 180 shaved head lkg for nasty boy into leather, raunch, cigar fetish a plus. Boot service also. Dad is drug free, HIV-neg. ☎ 71103

Want To Be My Boy?
Dominant top looking for boy under 35, fit and slim, for me to do with as I please. Into CBT, SM, DS, IT, etc. Mild to wild. Me: 8" built 41. Call me boy! ☎ 71128

In Experienced Masc, FF Bottom
In shape, handsome GWM, 41, 6'2", 185lbs, dark hairy mustache ISO experienced GWM tops into ass play & FF. No fats. ☎ 71130

"Master Seeks Slave!"
Handsome 6'4", 220lbs. blue-eyed, brown haired military type seeks nice little slave boy who can take orders, meet my every need and remember his place. Call me! ☎ 71153

Erotic Rope Bondage
Exotic bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, good looking, athletic, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage. Gags, toys, light S/M. Discreet, trustworthy. SF or East Bay. ☎ 71129

Enjoy Long Rim Jobs Plus More
Making love to your hot ass and cock and eating and drinking your hot raunch. My pleasure. Have it your way by energetic Vallejo oral expert who visits SF. ☎ 71151

Tit Pig
Pr/Cuban man with swollen nipples, seeks others tip pigs for mutual torture. I have a huge dick, loves to fuck, fisting and more. Aroma, smokers, light drinkers ok. ☎ 71154

Choose From 4 (1, 2, 3 or All!)
1. I suck you off creatively/compassionately to maximize your load(s). 2. I lick sweat off your balls. 3. Try to get tongue 3" up your shit-free ass hole. 4. drink your piss. ☎ 71155

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Meet 50-100 men, a few at a time, at an evening of short, thought-provoking, group conversations and ice-breakers. \$20 advance/\$25 door. "A large number of men in one place all interested in dating." "A great way to meet interesting people in a no-stress environment." "There were regular guys like me here." "Everyone seemed so friendly!" "An interesting bunch of guys."

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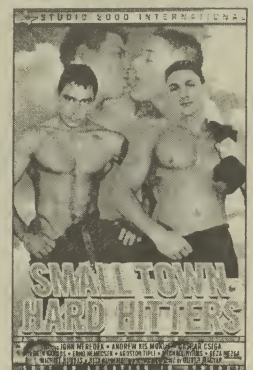
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Whore Cleo Irane (Honey Lauren) lusts after the good life in a big way in Doris Wishman's *Satan Was a Lady*.

Twisted outlaw filmmakers

Notorious films premiere in YBC series

by Gary Morris

The right wing is always screaming that we should "focus on the family" and encourage "family values" in our lives. Cinematically speaking, this

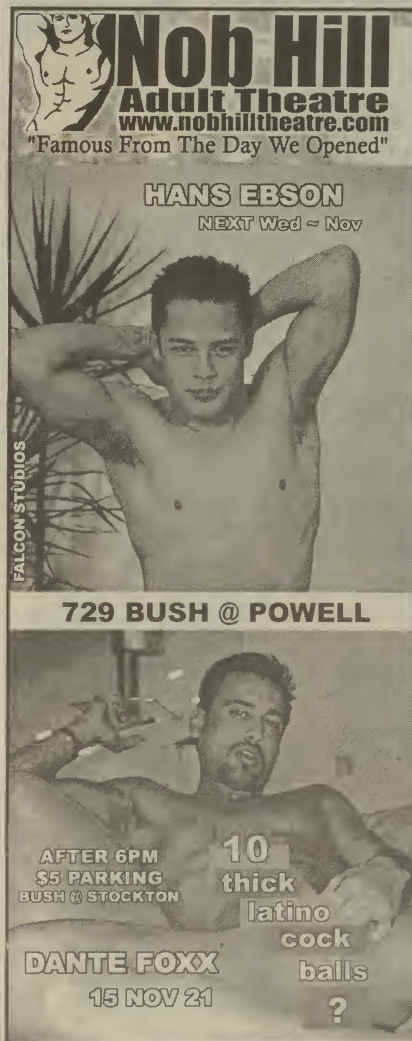
is a prescription for disaster, if the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' *Three Twisted Premieres* series beginning Friday is any indication.

These "outlaw films" (two of them, anyway) are in fact closeup views of families, and the picture is not a pretty one. Catherine Breillat's *A Real Young Girl* (*Une Vraie Jeune Fille*) was originally released in 1975, but caused such an uproar that it was censored then banned, and remained unreleased and rarely screened until now. Fourteen-year-old Alice (Charlotte Alexandra) returns to her family for the summer from boarding school. Daddy lusts after her, at one point exposing himself in lurid closeup (size queens may demand a refund), though she doesn't pay this or anything else much attention.

Daddy has a philosophical bent ("All the girls give their asses, and there's nothing left!") that

Alice has inherited. She spends much of the film in eloquent self-analysis ("I can't accept the proximity of my face and my vaginal!"), processing teenage-girl rituals like puking on herself ("I sat up, liberated by the vomit's warmth. Disgust makes me lucid,") and wandering around the house tempting one of her father's employees (Hiram Keller from *Fellini Satyricon*) and wearing her panties around her ankles. Breillat was responsible for the notorious hardcore art film *Romance*, and *A Real Young Girl* is equally challenging, with its images of Alice sticking a big spoon up her skirt and compulsively masturbating. Breillat takes a clinical approach to this very dicey material that subtly sucks the viewer into its depressing indictment of bourgeois life.

next page ►



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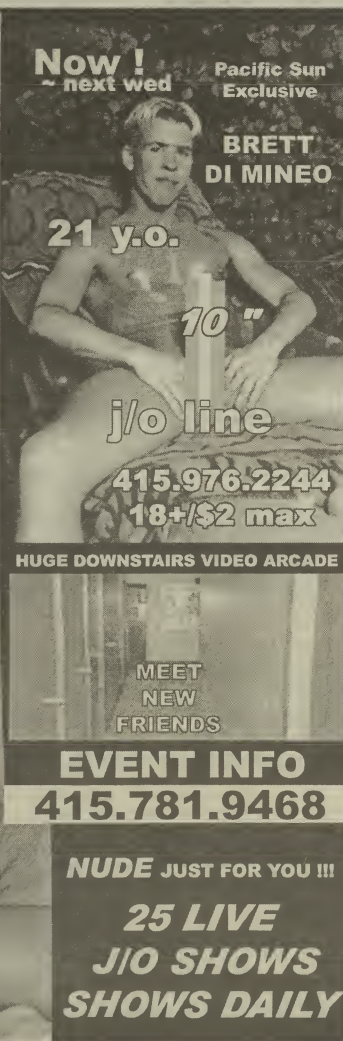
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Twisted films

◀ previous page

Daddy dearest

The other family melodrama in this series is *Visitor Q* (2001). While the ends are similar, director Takashi Miike's means are drastically different, and probably will be more unsettling to most viewers than Breillat's. Like *A Real Young Girl*, *Visitor 7* has an incest angle. It opens with the question "Have you ever done it with your dad?" A black screen opens to reveal a middle-aged man and a teenage girl having sex (Dad and daughter, we learn), the first in a series of increasingly demented tableaux. This family is one of cinema's weirdest. Dad is a TV reporter who screws not only his daughter but also a corpse. Daughter is a runaway and a whore. Mom's a punching bag for their psychotic teenage son, as well as a heroin addict and a prostitute. In the film's crazed pecking order, everybody's under attack by those nearest and dearest. Sonny boy is terrorized by his peers, who also assail the house nightly with fireworks. Miike gets in digs at the media, the Japanese penchant for pattern and regularity, censorship (despite the gruesome happenings, genitals are optically censored), and assorted other targets.

But most of the venom here is spewed on the family. Surprisingly, Miike pulls a number of nervous laughs out of these outré events, as when Dad gets "interviewed" by the bully-boys who stick a microphone up his ass, or when he gets his dick caught in a cadaver, a dilemma dutifully addressed by Mom, who pours vinegar in the bath to unstuck him. She also has one of the film's most memorable sequences when she projectile lactates for what seems like hours. This heartwarming drama, shot on digital video and aimed at the video market, is seen here in its first, and perhaps last, screening in North America, so hie thee thither.

The final outlaw in this heady trio is Doris Wishman's *Satan Was a Lady*, which abandons the family (mostly) in favor of a single femme fatale navigating through the seamy streets of Miami. The director is best known for her Chesty Morgan films like *Deadly Weapons*, featuring a worn-out porn hag with 76-inch tits. Now 80, Wishman continues to crank 'em out in digital video, and *Satan* is a typically sleazy effort. Where Cleo Irane (Honey Lauren) lusts after the Good Life and black-mails an alleged businessman (who looks like he just got off chemo) to get it. Wishman is known for her narrative discontinuities, and she devotes insanely long stretches here to a maudlin "hip" crooner, Ed Baines (Gly Styler), who serenades us into entropy with songs like "Come Cry with Me!"

Still, this film is surprisingly memorable, with some trashily vivid scenes, like Cleo in dominatrix drag angrily whipping the hell out of Mr. Businessman. Viewers unfamiliar with the Wishman oeuvre may find *Satan* disconcerting — what's with the crippled cat? why are those actors staring at the wall? — but like all good outlaw art, it makes up in authenticity what it lacks in sense. ▼

Miike, Breillat, Wishman: Three Twisted Premieres screens Nov. 2, 9, 10 & 17 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room. For tickets (\$6) and information, call (415) 978-ARTS.

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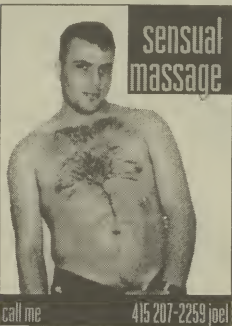
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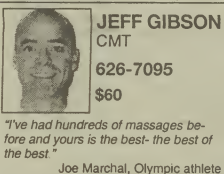
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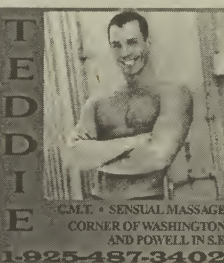


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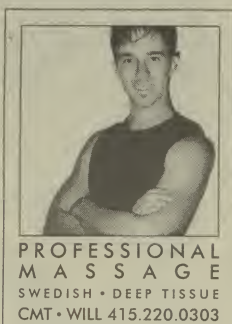
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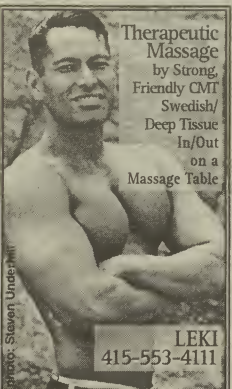
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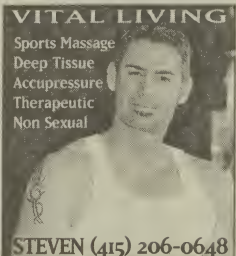
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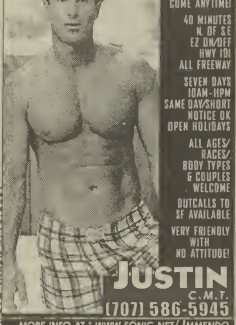
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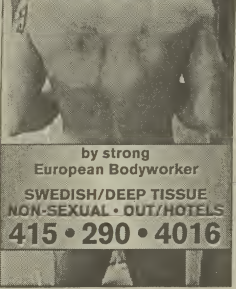


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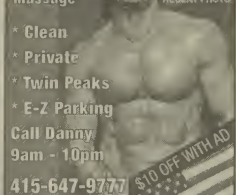
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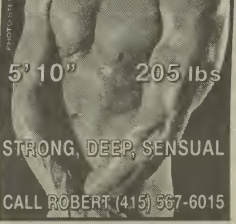


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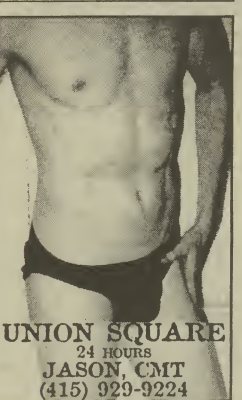
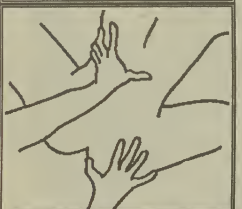
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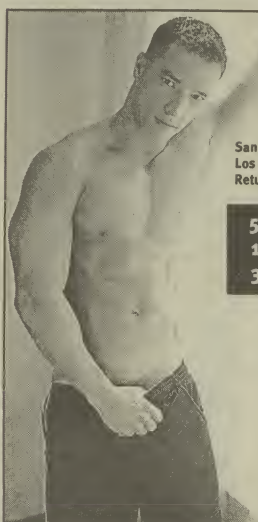
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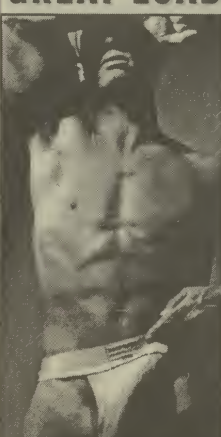
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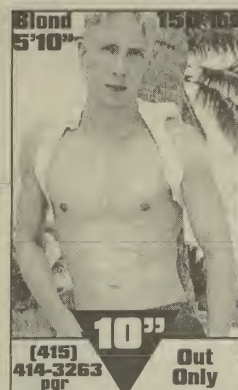
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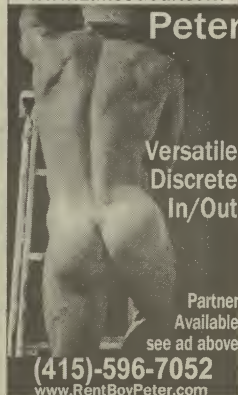
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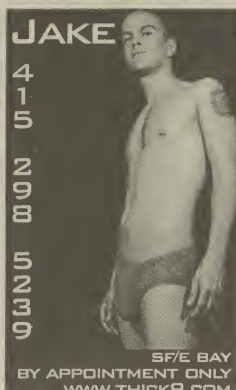
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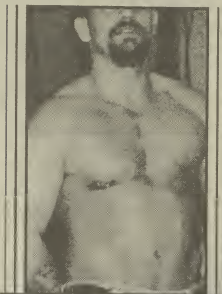
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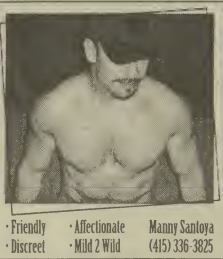
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